

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
iga.in.gov

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7382

BILL NUMBER: HB 1334

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2023

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Absentee Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Wesco

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Secretary of State*– The bill requires the Secretary of State to prescribe procedures for county election boards to enable voters to cure defects in absentee ballot applications.

Disclaimer– The bill requires all absentee ballot applications sent by an entity other than the county clerk's office to have a disclaimer that the application was sent unsolicited and to list the organization responsible for sending the application.

Provision of Absentee Ballot Application– The bill provides that an agency of the state or a political subdivision may not provide an individual with an application for an absentee ballot unless requested by the individual.

Provision of SSN and One Additional Number– The bill provides that an absentee ballot application must request that the applicant include: (1) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number; and (2) one of the following: (A) The applicant's Indiana driver's license number. (B) The applicant's Indiana identification card number for nondrivers. (C) The unique identifying number assigned to the applicant's voter registration record in the computerized list. The bill requires a county election board to implement the procedures prescribed by the Secretary of State if the county election board cannot match at least one of the numbers with the applicant's voter's registration record.

Absentee Voting by Mail– The bill provides that under certain circumstances, a person is entitled to vote by absentee ballot by mail if the person is unable to vote: (1) during the period of time a voter may vote by absentee ballot in person before the absentee voter board; (2) on election day; or (3) on election day during the entire 12 hours that the polls are open. (Current law provides that under certain circumstances, a person

is entitled to vote by absentee ballot by mail if the person is unable to vote on election day or on election day during the entire 12 hours that the polls are open.) The bill makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2023.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Secretary of State*– This provision would increase the Secretary of State’s (SOS) election staff workload. SOS existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Provision of SSN and One Additional Number– This provision would require absentee ballot application forms (42106 In-Person, 47090 Mail) and possibly other forms to be updated in order to comply with the last four digits of the SSN, the driver’s license number, BMV I.D. card number, or unique voter registration number to be provided by the applicant. (Current forms provide a space for the last four digits of the SSN, which is optional to provide. No space is provided for the driver’s license number, BMV I.D. number or unique voter registration number.) It is likely the form changes could be accomplished electronically within existing resources.

At various steps on the electronic application process, the “My Voter Portal” on the IndianaVoters website requires the applicant’s drivers license or I.D. number and last four of their SSN. However, any additional programming to add the additional number options, to the SVRS and website, could cost between \$15,000 and \$30,000. If the requirement can be fulfilled without any additional programming, where a voter would be able to download and print off an absentee ballot application, the impact would likely be limited to the ballot form changes as depicted above.

Absentee Voting by Mail– The bill would require some administrative updates to the Election Division’s website and modifications to the application for mail absentee ballots (Form: 47090, ABS-MAIL). It is likely these updates would be routine and could be accomplished with existing staff and resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Provision of SSN and One Additional Number*– Local election authorities may need to modify their ballot application systems to not allow the printing of the driver’s license number, last four digits of an applicant’s SSN, or any other numbers required by the bill on ballot applications. The impact to local expenditures is unknown and would be determined by their vendor under their existing contracted services agreement. However, local election authorities may simply be able to withhold the information by hand and mitigate any expenditures except for the time necessary to make sure the information is not printed on the ballot application.

County election boards would also see a workload increase to implement the Secretary of State’s procedures for remedying an absentee ballot with number matching issues.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division; Archives and Records Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources: <https://www.in.gov/iara/webfile/formsdiv/index.html>; J. Bradley King, Co-director of the Indiana Election Division.

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.