

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

**LS 7062**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 1359**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 16, 2026

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 16, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Scanning Ballots.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Wesco

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Gaskill

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Scanning Ballots*– The bill specifies a process by which certain counties may scan voted optical scan ballot cards during the early voting period and on election day without using secrecy envelopes. The bill makes conforming amendments.

*Early Absentee Voting*– The bill reduces the period during which in person absentee voting may occur at the office of the circuit court clerk or a satellite office from 28 days to a 16-day period ending at noon on the day before election day.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *Early Absentee Voting*– The Election Division may need to update future election calendars to accommodate the changes within the bill. It is likely any updates would be made within other routine updates when the new calendar is produced.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Scanning Ballots*– County election boards that adopt the required resolution under the bill would reduce election material expenditures if secrecy ballots were no longer needed and reduce staff time of existing election board staff (or reduce expenditures from temporary ballot counter/openers' wages) from opening and checking the secrecy ballots prior to scanning the ballots.

(Revised) *Early Absentee Voting*– Circuit court clerks and boards of elections would see a reduction in staff time, poll worker per diem (unless further workers were needed for the shorter time period to process more early voters, ballots printed, and electronic voting system energy usage by reducing the number of days that early voting would be allowed under the bill. Any savings would likely be minimal.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties adopting the resolution under the bill.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Election Division: *2024 Indiana Election Calendar*.

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