

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

LS 6830
BILL NUMBER: HB 1377

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 19, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Straight Ticket Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Payne
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Johnson T

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill repeals provisions that prohibit counting straight party votes for candidates for election to an at-large district to which more than one person may be elected. The bill removes a provision requiring particular ballot placement when more than one candidate may be elected to an office. The bill provides that if a voter votes a straight party ticket and also selects one or more individual candidates for an office to which more than one person may be elected, the: (1) individual votes shall be counted unless the total number of individual votes is greater than the number of persons to be elected to the office; (2) straight party votes for the office shall not be counted; and (3) straight party votes for other offices on the ballot shall be counted. The bill makes conforming amendments. The bill specifies how a vote is counted with a straight ticket on a paper ballot.

Effective Date: (Amended) January 1, 2027.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Election Division may need to update publications and/or other informational documents in order to include the bill's changes. It is likely the Division would be able to make any updates as routine administrative business.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Under the effective date, elections from 2028 on would be effected by the bill. Although, some additional ballot programming may be needed, DRE voting systems are equipped to vote straight-party. The DRE systems do have the option for the de-selection of certain down ballot candidates for at-large districts. School board selections would not be affected by the changes within the bill.

Optical-scan voting systems also allow for the marking of selected candidates after the voter has filled in a straight-party oval on their ballot sheet. The scanner will override the straight-party selection when an additional oval for any office is selected by the voter.

It is likely the overall processing of paper ballots would not be affected by this provision.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources:

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