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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6316
BILL NUMBER: SB 160

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 17, 2009
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Vote Centers.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Alting
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill extends for four years (until December 31, 2014) the use of vote centers in vote center pilot counties.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Secretary of State (SOS) could require additional administrative time to review applications for new vote center pilot counties. The impact to state expenditures would be negligible.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* The establishment of new vote center counties could reduce the expenditures needed to conduct elections, including payment of fewer poll workers and printing of poll books. However, start-up expenses such as the establishment of an electronic poll book database could offset some of the potential savings.

Vote Center Application Procedure- The county election board must adopt an ordinance (to apply to the SOS for vote center status) under unanimous approval. Additionally, resolutions of approval must be made by both the county executive and county fiscal body. The county then produces and sends an application to the SOS for review. If everything on the application checks correctly under SOS review, then vote center status is given to the applying county.

Background: Three counties are known to have been approved for vote center pilot status: Cass, Tippecanoe, and Wayne. Four election cycles will pass during the proposed extension: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014. Tippecanoe and Wayne began as vote center pilot counties during the 2007 election. In 2008, Cass was selected as the third vote center pilot county.

Tippecanoe County paid their vote center inspectors \$170 per day during the 2007 election, partially to include increased training time (four hours), versus \$160 for a conventional election. Two of the larger expenditures for Tippecanoe County included \$10,750 for electronic polling software and mail voter postcards at \$12,465.

Cass County has estimated that vote centers would save \$476,000 in election expenses.

Average election certified appropriations in Tippecanoe and Wayne, prior to vote centers, is depicted in the following table. These local appropriations cover election and voter registration board staffing and other administrative costs.

County	Average Appropriation	Averaged Years
Tippecanoe	County Election Board (CEB) - \$153,100 Voter Registration (VR) - \$131,701	CEB 1986-2001 VR 1986-2005
Wayne	CEB - \$163,100 VR - \$40,200	CEB 1986-2004 VR 1986-2005
Note: Data is not available in sufficient quantities for an average appropriation for Cass County.		

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: SOS.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties filing for vote center status.

Information Sources: Linda Phillips, Tippecanoe County Clerk, 765-423-9326; Indiana Secretary of State: www.in.gov/sos/elections/2834; LOGODABA

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