

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1422

SPONSOR: Senator Posey

SUBJECT: Voter Identification Cards

DATE: April 6, 2001

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Bradshaw	Bradshaw	EE	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Senate Bill 1422 deletes the requirement for race or ethnicity to be on a voter’s registration identification card.

This bill substantially amends section 97.071, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Each person who registers to vote is provided a registration identification card. The identification card includes the following information:

- Name;
- Party affiliation;
- Date of birth;
- Race or ethnicity, if provided by the voter on the registration form;
- Sex, if provided by the voter on the registration form;
- Address of legal residence;
- Precinct number;
- Date of Registration; and
- Voter identification number.

The identification card also contains a place for the voter’s signature. Most supervisors of elections also provide information on the location of the polling place of the voter and district offices for which the voter will be eligible to vote.

The voter identification card is not required to be presented at the polling place. A person who presents himself or herself to vote is required to furnish a picture identification, or complete an affidavit, in order to be allowed to vote. Prior to the Legislature requiring a picture identification card to be furnished at the polls, the voter identification card was used to indicate a person's eligibility to vote. Information on the identification card such as race or ethnicity, sex, and date of birth, were used to help identify that the person with the identification card was actually the voter.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Senate Bill 1422 removes the designation of race or ethnicity from the voter registration card. The information will still be requested, though not required, on the voter registration application.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
