

**STORAGE NAME:** h1201.ree.doc  
**DATE:** February 13, 2002

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
RULES, ETHICS & ELECTIONS (PRC)  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1201  
**RELATING TO:** Elections/Polling Place/Universities  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representative(s) Richardson & Others

**TIED BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) RULES, ETHICS & ELECTIONS (PRC)
- (2) COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (LLC)
- (3) PROCEDURAL & REDISTRICTING COUNCIL
- (4)
- (5)

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THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUING STATUTES, OR TO BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING, DEFINING, LIMITING, CONTROLLING, SPECIFYING, CLARIFYING, OR MODIFYING ANY LEGISLATION OR STATUTE.

I. SUMMARY:

HB 1201 requires that supervisors of elections in each county where the main campus of a state university is located shall establish a polling place on that main campus.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Supervisors of elections are not currently required to establish polling places at state universities. However, some supervisors have voluntarily established polling places at the state universities, including Leon (Florida A&M University, Florida State University) and Alachua Counties.<sup>1</sup>

Students must live in the precinct to vote at these polling locations, so if they live off of campus, they would have to vote in another precinct. Alachua County reports that the turnout at the polling place on the University of Florida campus is significantly lower than its other precincts.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, some students if registered, vote by absentee ballot from their home county of residence.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 1201 amends s. 101.001, F.S., relating to precincts and polling places. It requires that supervisors of elections in each county where the main campus of a state university is located establish a polling place on that campus.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

N/A

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

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<sup>1</sup> Telephone calls to the supervisor of elections' offices in Leon and Alachua Counties.

<sup>2</sup> The Alachua county supervisor's office reports that the voter turnout at the campus precinct is often below 20 percent.

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

Counties may be required to purchase additional equipment and supplies for the new polling places. The estimated cost ranges from \$500 to more than \$5,000 per polling place. The costs for counties using touch screen voting systems would be greatest as these machines cost approximately \$3,000 each. In addition, poll workers must be hired to operate these polling places.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

Election laws are exempt from the mandates of Art. VII, s. 18, of the Florida Constitution.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

Election laws are exempt from the mandates of Art. VII, s. 18, of the Florida Constitution.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

Election laws are exempt from the mandates of Art. VII, s. 18, of the Florida Constitution.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

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VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON RULES, ETHICS & ELECTIONS (PRC):

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Emmett Mitchell, IV

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Richard Hixson