

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 301
SPONSOR(S): Henriquez
TIED BILLS:

Early Voting

IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Ethics & Elections Committee		West	Mitchell
2) Colleges & Universities Committee			
3) Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee			
4) State Administration Council			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Currently, section 101.657, Florida Statutes, requires early voting to be held in the main or branch office of the county supervisor of elections (supervisor). The supervisor may also designate any city hall or public library as an early voting site. HB 301 would add public university or community college campuses to the list of acceptable early voting locations.

Early voting begins on the 15th day before an election and ends on the day before an election. Early voting is provided for at least 8 hours per weekday and also for 8 hours in the aggregate for each weekend in the early voting period.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Promote personal responsibility

Early voting locations placed on College/University campuses would provide easier access for students to participate and exercise their civic responsibilities. Campus locations could also serve to encourage students to learn the processes for registration as well as the requirements for voting in a particular location or precinct.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently, section 101.657, Florida Statutes, requires early voting to be held in the main or branch office of the county supervisor of elections (supervisor). The supervisor may also designate any city hall or public library as an early voting site. HB 301 would add public university or community college campuses to the list of acceptable early voting locations.

Each early voting site must use voting machines that cannot be used in the precincts for the regular election. They also require staffing and security for the voting records and machines while people are voting and after voting each day.

HB 301 would make it more convenient for students and university personnel to vote. It may also enhance student participation in the elections process.

Because parking on university and community college campuses is often limited, it may cause problems for people from off-campus to conveniently use these on-campus early voting sites.

Under HB 301, students would have to be educated to the fact that they would still be required to vote in their county of residence, unless they are properly registered to vote in the county where their university or community college is located.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

2. Expenditures:

There will be an indeterminate amount of money spent by the counties to cover the cost of additional machines and personnel for extra early voting sites if this bill is enacted.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

2. Expenditures:

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

2. Other:

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES