

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Judiciary Committee

BILL: CS/SB 192

INTRODUCER: Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Joyner

SUBJECT: Voter Information Cards

DATE: April 16, 2010 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rubinas	Rubinas	EE	Fav/CS
2.	Anderson	Maclure	JU	Favorable
3.			GPSC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS..... Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

I. Summary:

The bill requires the voter information card prescribed in statute and furnished by the supervisor of elections to include the address of the polling place. It provides that if an elector's polling place address changes, the supervisor must send the elector a new voter information card. The bill also specifies that the supervisor must provide a voter information card meeting the requirements of this act for any elector who, on or after September 1, 2010, registers to vote, requests a replacement card, or is issued a new card due to a change in his or her name, address of legal residence, polling place address, or party affiliation.

This bill substantially amends section 97.071, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, every supervisor of elections must furnish a voter information card to every registered voter in the supervisor's county. The card must contain the following information:

- Voter's registration number;
- Date of registration;

- Full name;
- Party affiliation;
- Date of birth;
- Address of legal residence;
- Precinct number;
- Supervisor's name and contact information; and
- Any other information deemed necessary by the supervisor.¹

Replacement cards are provided free of charge upon verification of the voter's registration, if the voter provides a signed written request for a replacement card.² The uniform statewide voter registration application may also be used to request a replacement card.³ New cards are automatically issued when a voter's name, address, or party affiliation changes.⁴

A survey in 2009⁵ indicated that 53 counties include the polling place address on the voter information card. The following eight counties did not include the polling place address on the voter information card: Holmes, Jefferson, Madison, Orange, Osceola, Taylor, Volusia, and Wakulla. No response was received from six counties.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires the voter information card to include an elector's polling place address. It also provides that when an elector's polling place address changes, the supervisor of elections must send a new card to the elector. The bill also specifies that the supervisor must provide a voter information card meeting the requirements of this act for any elector who, on or after September 1, 2010, registers to vote, requests a replacement card, or is issued a new card due to a change in his or her name, address of legal residence, polling place address, or party affiliation.

This bill shall take effect July 1, 2010.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

¹ Section 97.071(1), F.S.

² Section 97.071(2), F.S.

³ Section 97.052(1)(a), F.S.

⁴ Section 97.071(3), F.S.; *see also* s. 97.1031, F.S.

⁵ Unofficial survey, *Voter Card with Polling Place Address*, conducted by Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, Inc. (March 2009) (on file with the Senate Committee on Judiciary).

⁶ The six counties for which no response was received are: Charlotte, Gilchrist, Glades, Hillsborough, Lafayette, and Levy.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

As many as 14 counties may be required to issue new voter information cards reflecting the polling place address. While it varies from county to county, the average county cost to print and mail one card is roughly 52 cents. The supervisor of elections must issue a new card meeting all of the requirements outlined in the bill for anyone who registers to vote, or who is issued a new voter registration card, on or after September 1, 2010.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Ethics and Elections on April 12, 2010:

The committee substitute differs from the original bill in that it specifies that the supervisor must provide a voter information card meeting the requirements of this act for any elector who, on or after September 1, 2010, registers to vote, requests a replacement card, or changes his or her name, address, or party affiliation.

B. Amendments:

None.