

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 Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 242

INTRODUCER: Senator Joyner

SUBJECT: Voter Information Cards

DATE: January 24, 2011 REVISED: 01/27/11

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Seay	Roberts	EE	Fav/1 amendment
2.			RC	
3.			JU	
4.			BC	
5.				
6.				

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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, 2011, registers to vote, requests a replacement card, or changes their name, 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 2010⁵ indicated that 61 counties include the polling place address on the voter information card. The following six counties did not include the polling place address on the voter information card: Glades, Jefferson, Madison, Orange⁶, Taylor and Volusia.

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 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, 2011, registers to vote, requests a replacement card, or changes their name, address, or party affiliation.

This bill shall take effect July 1, 2011.

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), 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 (February 2010).

⁶ While Orange County does not print the polling place address on the voter information cards, the polling place address is provided on the sample ballots that are mailed out prior to each election. The Orange County Supervisor of Elections office has explained that the office provides the polling place address on the sample ballot instead of the voter information card as the polling place varies for municipal elections and general elections. *See id.*

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Six counties will 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.⁷

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

It may be prudent to use the same date in Sections 2 and 3 of the bill, to avoid confusion; a travelling amendment with the bill changes the date in Section 2 to August 1, 2012.

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.)

None.

B. Amendments:

Barcode 500128 by Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections on January 26, 2011:

The amendment changes the date that supervisors must provide voter information cards with polling place addresses from September 1, 2011 to August 1, 2012.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁷ The cost estimate is based on 2009 data provided by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections.