

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 Committee

BILL: CS/SB 242

INTRODUCER: Rules Committee and Senator Joyner

SUBJECT: Voter Information Cards

DATE: March 30, 2011 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Seay	Roberts	EE	Fav/1 Amendment
2.	Seay	Phelps	RC	Fav/CS
3.			JU	
4.			BC	
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 committee substitute 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 committee substitute also specifies that the supervisor must provide a voter information card meeting the requirements of this act for any elector who, on or after August 1, 2012, registers to vote, requests a replacement card, or changes their name, address, or party affiliation.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2011.

This bill substantially amends section 97.071 of the 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 August 1, 2012, 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.

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.*

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

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 However, any additional costs will likely be minimal since all counties will be issuing new voter information cards in 2012 as a result of reapportionment.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

It may be prudent to use the same date in Sections 2 and 3 of the bill, to avoid confusion; the effective date of the bill is July 1, 2011 while supervisors must begin providing voter information cards with polling place addresses on or after 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.)**CS by Rules – March 29, 2011:**

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

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

B. Amendments:

None.

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