

The Florida Senate  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

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BILL: CS/CS/SB 228

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee, Ethics and Elections Committee, and Senators Clemens and Richter

SUBJECT: Online Voter Registration

DATE: April 28, 2015

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1—290701** (body with title)

**II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1** The House Amendment requires the online voter registration system to comply with the Agency for State Technology's information technology security provisions. The House Amendment also requires the Division of Elections to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment before making the online voter registration system available to the public and every two years thereafter. The risk assessment must comply with the risk assessment methodology developed by the Agency for State Technology.

Initial representations from the Department of State indicate that the cost of implementing the online voter registration system would range between \$250,000 and \$1,800,000. As a result of those representations, the Legislature has appropriated \$1,800,000 from the Federal Grants Trust Fund to use federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to pay for the design and implementation of the system. Most, if not all, of the other states that have implemented an online voter registration system have come in well below \$1,800,000. While there may be an additional fiscal impact for the risk assessment to be conducted, the bill provides sufficient funds from federal HAVA monies to pay for design and implementation of the system *and the risk assessment*. If, however, the Department of State needs additional budget authority to conduct the risk assessment within the \$1.8 million appropriation, it may seek additional budget authority via a Budget Amendment pursuant to s. 216.181(11), F.S., to expend additional HAVA funds that exist in DOS' Federal Grants Trust Fund.