

Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986
TDD: (517) 373-0543

Senate Bill 61 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Bev Hammerstrom
Committee: Government Operations

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Election Law to provide that, if a county, city, ward, township, or village were divided into two or more election precincts, the county, city, ward, township, or village election commissioners could, by resolution, consolidate the election precincts for a particular election. Election precincts could not be consolidated for a general November election, a primary election immediately before a general November election, or another statewide or Federal election. In determining to consolidate, the election commission would have to consider the number of choices a voter would have to make, the percentage of registered voters who voted at the last similar election in the jurisdiction, and the intensity of the electors' interest in the jurisdiction concerning the candidates and proposals to be voted upon.

To consolidate election precincts for a particular election, the election commissioners, or other designated election officials, would have to do both of the following:

- Provide notice to the registered electors of the affected election precincts of the consolidation of precincts for the election, and the location of the polling place for the precinct or precincts for that election. Notice could be provided by mail or other method designed to provide actual notice to the registered electors.
- Post a written notice at each election precinct polling place stating the location of the consolidated precinct polling place.

The notice requirements would not apply if the polling places for the precincts to be consolidated were located in the same building.

A consolidation of precincts could not be made less than 60 days before a primary, general, or special election. If a county, city, ward, township, or village consolidated election precincts under the bill, each affected precinct would have to be treated as a whole unit and could not be divided during consolidation.

Proposed MCL 168.659

Legislative Analyst: G. Towne

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State government. The fiscal impact on local government is indeterminate. Fulfilling the elector notification requirement could require additional expenditures; however, the consolidation of the precincts would result in overall savings for local jurisdictions. Administrative costs would be reduced primarily due to a decreased need for election workers.

Date Completed: 10-29-01

Fiscal Analyst: J. Runnels