

Legislative Analysis



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House Bill 4702 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou

Committee: Elections

Complete to 6-13-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Enacted as Public Act 88 of 2023)

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4702 would amend the Michigan Election Law to increase the maximum number of electors allowed in a precinct from 2,999 to 5,000.

In determining the number of registered voters in a precinct, a local election commissioner or the secretary of state can currently use either the number of active registered electors for the city or township or both the active registered electors and the electors in the inactive voter file. Under House Bill 4702, only active registered voters could be used for this determination.

The bill would also allow precincts that are currently divided to have the division abolished as long as it appears, from an examination of registration records, that the consolidated district would not exceed 5,000 active registered electors.

Finally, the bill would remove outdated requirements as to the number of voting machines required in precincts.

MCL 168.658 and 168.661

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4134 would have no direct fiscal impact on the Department of State but would provide for potential cost savings to certain cities, wards, townships, or villages that are eligible to consolidate precincts without having over 5,000 registered electors. These local units of government could realize savings by requiring fewer numbers of voting equipment and resources, such as absentee voter counting board tabulators, to meet the election needs in that precinct.

Currently, the average cost for an election for a local unit of government is an estimated \$2,000 per precinct. If a local unit of government chose to consolidate its precincts, they could save \$2,000 for each precinct consolidated. The amount of savings is indeterminate and would depend on the actual number of precincts consolidated.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks testified in support of the bill. (6-8-23)

The following entities indicated support for the bill (6-8-23):

- American Association of University Women of Michigan

- Detroit Regional Chamber
- Healthy Democracy Healthy People Michigan
- Michigan Democratic Party
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters
- Michigan State Employee Retirees Association
- Michigan Townships Association
- NextGen America
- Protect Democracy
- Voters Not Politicians

A representative of Promote the Vote testified with concerns about the bill. (6-8-23)

Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections indicated opposition to the bill. (6-13-23)

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