

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Research  
733-4910

Prepared By: Richard Bostic	Date Prepared: May 4, 1989	Bill No.: HB 548	Edition:
Approved By: Tom Covington			Sponsor: Rep. Michaux
Short Title: Same Day Voter Registration			

TYPE OF FISCAL IMPACT	COUNTY		FUNDS AFFECTED:			
	State Gov't	Local Gov't	( ) General	( ) Highway	( ) Other: Local	
			State Fiscal Impact	FY	FY	FY
No Fiscal Impact*	(x)	(x)	State Total Req'ments			
			Receipts/Revenues			
Increase Expenditure	( )	( )	Net State Expend./Rev.			
			No. of Positions			
Decrease Expenditure	( )	( )	Local Fiscal Impact	FY	FY	FY
Increase Revenue	( )	( )	Local Total Req'ments			
			Receipts/Revenues			
Decrease Revenue	( )	( )	Net Local Expend./Rev.			
			No. of Positions			
No Estimate Avail.	( )	( )				

Description of Legislation

1. Summary of Legislation: Allows individuals to register to vote on election day.
2. Effective Date: Effective with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 1990.
3. Fund or Tax Affected
4. Principal Department/Program Affected: County boards of election

Cost or Revenue Impact on State

FY	FY	FY
89-90	90-91	

1. Non-Recurring Costs/Revenues

2. Recurring Costs/Revenues

3. Fiscal/Revenue Assumptions

Cost/Revenue Impact on County or Local Government

	FY	FY	FY
	89-90	90-91	
1. Non-Recurring Costs/Revenues			
2. Recurring Costs/Revenues			
3. Fiscal/Revenue Assumptions			

\* HB 548 does not mandate local boards of elections to increase personnel to handle same-day registration (see technical considerations, page 2).

Sources of Data for Fiscal Note

State Board of Elections, U.S. Census, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, National Center for Policy Alternatives

Technical Considerations/Comments

It is difficult to estimate the costs of HB 548 because (1) the number registering will vary by precinct and (2) the local boards of elections will react differently to the influx of same day registrants. On average, precincts can expect 84 to 168 citizens to register to vote on election day. This registration may cause delays during peak voting hours, but most precincts should be able to handle the workload with existing personnel. However, only after one election using same-day registration can county boards of elections determine precinct staffing needs.

REGISTRATION

Same-day registration is held only in Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin and accounts for 20% of all registrants in those states. Minnesota reports that 5 to 10% of eligible voters register to vote on election day. Based on the Minnesota experience, North Carolina could expect an average of 84 (5%) to 168 (10%) registrants per precinct on election day (1986 population estimates and 1986 registration). County registration of same-day voters would range from 24 to 48 in Pamlico County to 186 to 372 in Onslow. In the Metropolitan Statistical Areas as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, the average is 114 to 228 per precinct. Precincts in rural counties can anticipate 75 to 150 same-day registrants.

#### WORST CASE SCENARIO

The State Board of Elections believes same-day registrants would force local boards of elections to hire additional precinct registration commissioners. Mr. Alex Brock, Director of Elections, estimates that one worker would have to be added to each of the 2,391 precincts each election day. At a minimum cost of \$35 per day for such workers, this would total \$83,685 per statewide election day for all 100 counties. This would be a local cost except for the "Super Tuesday" presidential primary and special bond elections.

#### BEST CASE SCENARIO

The best case scenario for the expense of same-day registration is that the precinct workers will handle the 84 to 168 registrants with some delays during peak voting hours. Much will depend on having well trained precinct workers, understandable registration forms and a proper layout of the voting area that will accommodate voters filling out these forms. Pre-election planning and preparation by election officials will ease the burden on precinct registration commissioners.



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