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Office

S.B. 14
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 14's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Rulli

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The renamed Board of Voting Systems Examiners will incur new testing and certification costs for analyzing voter registration systems. These costs would be offset through a testing and certification fee of \$2,400, the same amount that applies to other devices currently tested and certified by the Board. The additional fee revenue would be deposited into the renamed Board of Voting Systems Examiners Fund (Fund 4S80) under the Secretary of State's budget.
- Adding a cybersecurity expert to the renamed Board means that overall member compensation will increase by a few hundred dollars. Under current law, members receive up to a maximum of \$600 per device that is tested. Members are also reimbursed for their expenses.

Detailed Analysis

Board of Voting Systems Examiners

The renamed and enlarged Board of Voting Systems Examiners will incur some additional costs to approve and certify voter registration equipment under the same process currently used to test and certify voting machines, marking devices, automatic tabulating equipment, voting and tabulation software, and electronic pollbooks. However, these new costs will be offset by a \$2,400 equipment testing and certification fee the Board charges currently. Additional fees may be charged if any special testing is required or extraordinary costs are incurred during the examination process. The fees for testing voting registration systems would be deposited into the renamed Board of Voting Systems Examiners Fund (Fund 4S80). In FY 2020, Fund 4S80 collected \$14,400 in certification fees. Receipts thus far in FY 2021 have amounted to \$9,600. The February 1, 2021 cash balance was approximately \$1,000. The Secretary of State anticipates

six voting systems will be brought before the Board in the upcoming fiscal year for possible certification.

The Board will incur some additional cost to compensate the new nonvoting cybersecurity expert added by the bill, increasing its membership to five appointees. Under current law unchanged by the bill, board members are paid \$300 per day for each combination of systems or pieces of equipment examined and reported on, but they may not receive more than \$600 to examine and report on any one system or piece of equipment. Members are also reimbursed for their expenses.

Boards of elections

Boards of elections are not likely to face new costs as a result of the bill's requirements that apply to voter registration systems. This is because the bill specifies that a county board of elections using a voter registration system before the bill takes effect may continue using that system until a new system is acquired.

The bill contains a provision dealing with the process by which a protest against a person's candidacy is handled. Specifically, the bill requires a board of elections or the Secretary of State to decide a protest against a person's candidacy filing no later than ten days after the protest is filed. Current law does not specify a deadline. Potentially, boards of elections could incur some small amount of additional mailing costs for sending notice of the hearing to the parties involved in the protest. A common type of protest involves a claim that a candidate has not met the valid signature thresholds on their nominating petitions.