

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 4
Version:	Engrossed
Author:	Representative Tibbs/ Senator Ford
Date:	March 31, 2009
Impact:	FY-10: \$0 FY-11 and Thereafter: Statewide Elections -\$35,000-\$55,000, Plus \$26,800 for General Elections; Counties: Staff over-time/part-time costs

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Arnella Karges

Engrossed SB 4 changes statutory references to in-person absentee voting to be known as the commonly used term, early voting. The bill also requires each person who appears to vote in person to provide proof of identity to the judge. Proof of identity is defined as a document that shows the name of the person and the name conforms to the name listed in the precinct registry; the document shows a photograph of the person; the document includes an expiration date; and the document was issued by the U.S. or Oklahoma government or a federally recognized Indian tribe. A person may also present his/her voter identification card as proof of identity.

If a person does not have proper proof of identity, the bill allows for a provisional voting procedure which requires the voter to sign a statement under oath declaring that he or she is the voter identified in the precinct book. It is a felony to falsely sign the oath and the penalty must be listed on the statement to be signed.

The bill requires requests for absentee ballots for general elections to be received earlier than currently allowed. The bill also increases the time allowed for early voting in general elections, to allow for early voting to begin on Wednesday, at 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., to include early voting on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as well and continue through Monday as currently allowed.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Terry McKenna

ESB 4 requires that each person appearing to vote shall provide proof of identity to the judge of the precinct. The measure also lists the forms of acceptable photographic identity documentation and allows a person without such proof to vote upon signing a statement under oath affirming the person's identity. The measure also provides times and days for early voting in General Elections and other elections and applies the same identification requirements and provisional voting procedures to the early voting process.

Fiscal Analysis

The State Election Board anticipates that the number of voters voting by provisional ballot would increase under this legislation. This would increase the number of Provisional Voting Officers needed in elections in which a high turnout is expected. Provisional Voting Officers are paid \$87 per day, of which \$85 is paid by the state and \$2 is paid by the county. We anticipate that a Provisional Voting Officer could be needed in approximately 20% to 30% of the precincts in a statewide election at a cost of \$36,000 to \$55,000. There would also be a fiscal impact to counties in this situation.

This legislation would also add two days of early voting before the General Election in November of even-numbered years. A two-member Absentee Voting Board works each day of early voting, and each member is paid \$87 per day, all of which is paid by the state. The cost to the state would be \$13,400 for each additional day of early voting. This legislation would add a cost of \$26,800 for each General Election. The State Election Board has been advised by several County Election Boards that there would also be substantial costs to the counties, including staff overtime and part-time personnel.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

As Stated Above

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director