

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB261
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Wright and Sen. Daniels
Date:	3/25/2019
Impact:	SEB FY-20: \$500K costs absorbed through existing agency resources; FY-21 and beyond: costs unknown

Research Analysis

SB 261 authorizes the Secretary of the State Election Board to direct the secretary of a county election board to conduct a post-election audit of election results, with the findings being made available to the Secretary and the public. Other provisions of the measure include:

- Authorizing the Secretary to employ security measures necessary for the protection of voting devices, election and registration systems, and related software and networks;
- Requiring the county commissioners of each county to implement equivalent security measures at the county election board as those in place at other county agencies;
- Making it a felony to access or tamper with any part of an election-related system of the State or county election board; and
- Modifying the circumstances under which the Secretary of the State Election Board can declare an election emergency.

Prepared By: Marcia Johnson

Fiscal Analysis

Officials for the State Election Board (SEB) anticipates \$500,000 in security upgrades for FY-20 related to SB 261. SEB plans to utilize \$260,000 in existing agency revolving funds toward the initiative and additional federal funds designated available for such security initiatives. SEB expects such revolving and federal funds to allow for SB 261 implementation without a need for increased appropriations. SEB does however expect additional costs in future fiscal years related to the measure that will likely result in a request for additional appropriations. SEB does not provide an estimate of future fiscal year costs for the measure.

SB 261 also creates a felony for election tampering. Ultimately the overall impact for this element is contingent upon the number of people found guilty of the crime and the length of the sentence imposed. The average cost of incarceration for one inmate in Department of Corrections custody \$58.70 per day or \$21,426 per year.

Prepared By: John McPhetridge

Other Considerations

None.

