

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 444
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Request No.:	2273
Author:	Sen. Jech
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Bill Analysis

The CCS on SB 444 modifies personnel for and the procedure of elections. The measure stipulates that each precinct within each county shall have at least three precinct officials: an inspector, a judge and a clerk. One official must be a member of the political party with the most registered voters in the state and another member must be a member of the second largest political party within the state. Said officials must be drawn from a list of officials submitted by the largest and second largest political parties. A third official may be from any recognized political party in the state.

The secretary of the county election board is required to maintain a list of precinct officials in his or her county. The minimum salary of county election board employees may be paid at a prorated rate if the board's operating hours are shorter than the average of the regular public office hours of other county offices. The Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to prescribe the duties, training, and appointment procedures of the precinct officials. The measure also allows the Secretary to authorize additional precinct officials as needed by each county. Compensation and reimbursement for these officials is increased beginning July 1, 2020. The secretary of the county election board may remove employees or precinct officials with the approval of the county election board. The measure increases the amount paid to those who attend training sessions related to becoming a precinct official from \$25.00 to \$35.00 beginning January 1, 2021.

Changes to precinct boundaries will require the approval of the county election board. Such changes must be presented in a public meeting of the board. The secretary of the county election board is empowered to determine the location of polling places within the county by the measure. The secretary must receive permission to locate a polling place outside of the geographical confines of a precinct from the State Election Board.

Conference Committee Report

The CCS on SB 444 removes the ability of the secretary of a county election board to remove county election officials at will and instead requires the board to approve removal of officials. The CCS also adds the requirement for political parties to submit a list of possible precinct officials for appointment by county election secretaries. The CCS specifies that the increased compensation paid to those attending training sessions shall begin January 1, 2021.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor