BILL SUMMARY

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.: HB 3321 Version: SAHB

Request Number:

Author: Rep. Miller
Date: 5/18/2022
Impact: Unknown negative fiscal impact (see analysis below)

Research Analysis

HB3321 requires ballots used in any election to be printed on paper, provided there is a method for a voter who requires assistance to cast a ballot, in a manner determined by the Secretary of the State Election Board. The measure also prohibits using watchers via electronic devices and prohibits devices or equipment used by the State Election Board or a county election board to count or tabulate ballots from connecting to the Internet. This does not prohibit a secure network connection between the State Election Board and the county election board to transmit or receive voter registration or election-related data. The measure also includes distributing an absentee ballot application or request to a voter with official letterhead under the definition of "absentee ballot harvesting." Last, the measure requires that a new unitary integrated voting system that is implemented on or after Jan. 1, 2023, will be required to report the official election returns of each election by precinct, including all votes cast in person and absentee.

Senate amendments to HB3321 adds that there be a voting method for any voter who requires assistance for reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write. It also strikes Section 5 of the engrossed measure which requires notification to Attorney General if there is evidence of voting registration or voting crimes. The Senate amendments also restores title.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach

Fiscal Analysis

Upon review and with consultation from the State Election Board, passage of the measure may have a fiscal impact. A "small" additional expenditure would be needed to reprogram current software to implement the provisions of the measure. Further, County Election Boards may incur additional costs to implement the provisions of the measure. The amount of these additional costs is unknown at this time.

Prepared By: Nathan Shugart

Other Considerations

None.