



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 638

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5604

House of Representatives, May 7, 2001

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING REGULATIONS CONCERNING A VOTER GUIDE FOR STATE ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) The Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in
2 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
3 concerning publication and distribution of a voter guide for state
4 elections in cooperation with candidates for offices at such elections.

5 (b) The voter guide shall contain biographical information, a
6 statement by each candidate not to exceed one hundred fifty words, a
7 photograph and contact information. The voter guide shall also
8 contain information concerning any constitutional question that may
9 appear on the ballot.

10 (c) The voter guide shall be published and made available in public
11 places and posted on the Internet. The guide posted on the Internet
12 may contain links to Internet web sites maintained by such candidates.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R-LCO*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

- State Impact:** See Explanation Below
- Affected Agencies:** Office of the Secretary of the State
- Municipal Impact:** None

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill requires the Secretary of the State (SOTS) to adopt regulations specifying the procedures for publishing and distributing a voter guide for state elections. It is anticipated that the SOTS can adopt such regulations within the normal budgetary resources of the agency, thus there is no fiscal impact. If the voter guide is distributed primarily through the internet, no additional funds would be needed. However, if the voter guide is printed and distributed, the Office of the Secretary of the State could incur costs. The extent of these potential costs cannot be determined as they are contingent on the manner of distribution of the voter guides, which will be determined by the regulations adopted by the Office of the Secretary of the State.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sHB 5604

AN ACT AUTHORIZING REGULATIONS CONCERNING A VOTER GUIDE FOR STATE ELECTIONS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the secretary of the state to adopt regulations specifying the procedures for publishing and distributing a voter guide for state elections. The guide must contain for each candidate for offices voted on at state elections: biographical information, a photograph, contact information, and the candidate's statement of up to 150 words. It must also contain information on constitutional questions that appear on the ballot. It must be available in public places and on the Internet. The Internet version may include links to candidates' web sites.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND

State Elections

The following officials are elected at state elections: U.S. senators and representatives in Congress, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer, secretary of the state, state comptroller, state senators and state representatives, judges of probate, and registrars of voters.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 20 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 28 Nay 24