



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 589

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 777

Senate, April 23, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ENABLING TOWNS TO CHECK VOTERS IN ELECTRONICALLY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-234 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 Each registrar of voters shall be present during the taking of the
4 vote at any regular or special state or municipal election in the
5 registrar's of voters town or district. The assistants in their respective
6 districts shall, when requested by either registrar of voters, be present
7 at the taking of any such vote and discharge the duties of registrars of
8 voters. Each registrar of voters shall appoint some suitable person to
9 check the list in each district, unless the registrars of voters have
10 established two shifts for election officials under the provisions of
11 section 9-258a, in which case each such registrar of voters shall appoint
12 one such person for each district for each shift. Each such person, who
13 is so appointed official checker, shall manually or electronically check

14 the name of each elector [thereon] on the list when the elector offers
 15 the elector's vote, and no voting tabulator tender shall permit any vote
 16 to be cast upon the voting tabulator until the name has been so
 17 checked. If an official checker is checking the name of an elector
 18 electronically, the checker shall use an electronic device approved by
 19 the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the provisions of section
 20 2 of this act.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall
 22 conduct a review of electronic devices that could assist checkers in
 23 checking the name of electors pursuant to section 9-234 of the general
 24 statutes, as amended by this act. Not later than September 1, 2013, the
 25 Secretary shall make a list of any such devices that the Secretary
 26 approves for use pursuant to said section 9-234 available to
 27 municipalities in a manner determined by the Secretary. The Secretary
 28 may periodically update such list if the Secretary determines that such
 29 update is necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	9-234
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	150,000	10,000

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	Less than 20,000	Less than 20,000

Explanation

The bill would allow registrars of voters to use electronic systems that are approved by the Secretary of the State (SOTS) to check in voters. The bill would also require SOTS to create and maintain a list of electronic devices that municipalities may use for electronic checking in of voters.

The SOTS is anticipated to incur a cost of \$150,000 in FY 14 to review, approve, and create a list of approved electronic devices for use in the voter check in process. The SOTS is anticipated to incur on-going costs of \$10,000 per year beginning in FY 15 to maintain and update the list of approved electronic devices. Given the technical nature of device approval it is expected that the costs identified for SOTS will support a contracted consultant.

To the extent that municipalities decide to utilize electronic resources to check in voters, there is a potential cost to municipalities arising from their purchase of such devices. The cost potentially incurred by municipalities is dependent upon the type of equipment

utilized and number of polling stations in a municipality. Such costs are not anticipated to exceed \$20,000 for municipalities that decide to utilize this type of equipment.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact for SOTS identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. Municipal costs in the out years would be dependent upon the lifecycle of the equipment utilized.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 777*****AN ACT ENABLING TOWNS TO CHECK VOTERS IN ELECTRONICALLY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes official checkers to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic device to check in electors at the polls. By law, official checkers are responsible for verifying electors' identification and checking their names off the official registry list before they are permitted to vote.

The bill requires the secretary to conduct a review of electronic devices that could assist checkers and, by September 1, 2013, compose a list of those she approves for municipal use. She may update the list periodically if necessary.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the list of approved electronic devices and October 1, 2013 for checking in electors.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 2 (04/05/2013)