

D38I01
State Board of Elections

Proposed Amendment to BRFA

Add language to the BRFA mandating a minimum fiscal 2014 appropriation of \$2 million from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund authorized for use for the implementation of an optical scan voting system in the BRFA of 2009 as amended by the BRFA of 2010 to begin the implementation of the optical scan voting system. The language would also express the intent that beginning in fiscal 2015 the funding for the optical scan system be returned to the required 50/50 general and local special fund split.

Explanation: Chapters 547 and 548 of 2007 prohibited the State Board of Elections (SBE) from certifying a voting system unless it included a voter-verifiable paper record, which is defined an optical scan system and including a paper ballot created through the use of ballot marking device. Subsequent legislation modified the requirements and altered the date in which the system was to be in place to the 2010 gubernatorial primary election. Although funds were initially provided to implement this system, funds were later reduced in cost containment actions, and nearly all of the remainder was cancelled. No funds were provided in the fiscal 2011, 2012, or 2013 budgets to implement this system. SBE indicates that for a new system to be in place for the 2016 presidential elections funds would need to be included in the fiscal 2014 budget. This language would require a minimum appropriation of \$2 million in the fiscal 2014 budget bill. The appropriation would be from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund of which \$2.0 million was authorized to be used for this purpose in the BRFA of 2009 as amended by the BRFA of 2010. The language would not require any additional general or local special fund match to begin the implementation. The language also expresses the intent that beginning in fiscal 2015 the cost of the system again be shared equally between the general fund and local special funds as currently required.