

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB712</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Engrossed</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Newton/ Sen. Jech</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/5/2021</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>See Analysis Below</b>

**Research Analysis**

Engrossed SB 712 provides that the Secretary of the State Election Board may authorize use of electronic precinct registries by one or more county election boards and may purchase necessary equipment, subject to funding. The secretary shall promulgate necessary rules to implement, operate, and maintain system security. Precinct registries, including electronic data, shall be retained by the county election board for a period of 24 months following the election. Current statute states records shall be retained for 22 months.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach

**Fiscal Analysis**

SB 712 in its current form authorizes the State Election Board (SEB) to purchase any equipment and software necessary to implement an electronic precinct registry system. Officials from SEB estimate the cost of implementing such a system to be up to \$5,000,000, with annual operations and maintenance costs in the “low six-figures.”

The measure provides that such implementation be dependent upon the availability of funds; therefore, the measure should not result in an unfunded mandate on SEB. Officials from SEB are exploring options related to utilizing federal funding to cover all or part of such implementation. Costs in excess of available federal funding would need to be covered by state resources, in order to trigger implementation.

Prepared By: John McPhetridge

**Other Considerations**

None.