

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Judiciary Committee

**BILL:** CS/SB 264

**INTRODUCER:** Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Joyner

**SUBJECT:** Voter Information Cards

**DATE:** March 24, 2009      **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Kruse	Rubinas	EE	<b>Fav/CS</b>
2.	Sumner	Maclure	JU	<b>Favorable</b>
3.			RC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

**Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:**

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE.....  Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS.....  Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

**I. Summary:**

The bill requires the voter information card prescribed in statute and furnished by the supervisor of elections to include the address of the polling place. It provides that if an elector's polling place address changes, the supervisor must send the elector a new voter information card. The bill also specifies that for any elector registered to vote on July 1, 2009, the supervisor has until 30 days before the next supervisor-administered election in which the elector is eligible to vote to include the polling place address on the elector's voter information card.

This bill substantially amends section 97.071, Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

Currently, every supervisor of elections must furnish a voter information card to every registered voter in the supervisor's county. The card must contain the following information:

- Voter's registration number;
- Date of registration;
- Full name;

- Party affiliation;
- Date of birth;
- Address of legal residence;
- Precinct number;
- Supervisor's name and contact information; and
- Any other information deemed necessary by the supervisor.<sup>1</sup>

Replacement cards are provided free of charge upon verification of the voter's registration, if the voter provides a signed written request for a replacement card.<sup>2</sup> The uniform statewide voter registration application may also be used to request a replacement card.<sup>3</sup> New cards are automatically issued when a voter's name, address, or party affiliation changes.<sup>4</sup>

A recent survey<sup>5</sup> indicated that 53 counties include the polling place address on the voter information card. The following eight counties do not include the polling place address on the voter information card: Holmes, Jefferson, Madison, Orange, Osceola, Taylor, Volusia, and Wakulla. No response was received from six counties.<sup>6</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires the voter information card to include an elector's polling place address. It also provides that when an elector's polling place address changes, the supervisor must send a new card to the elector. The bill also specifies that for any elector registered to vote on July 1, 2009, the supervisor has until 30 days before the next supervisor-administered election in which the elector is eligible to vote to include the polling place address on the elector's voter information card.

This bill shall take effect July 1, 2009.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 97.071(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 97.071(2), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 97.052(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 97.071(3), F.S.; *see also* s. 97.1031, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Unofficial Survey, *Voter Card with Polling Place Address*, conducted by Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, Inc. (March 2009).

<sup>6</sup> The six counties for which no response was received are: Charlotte, Gilchrist, Glades, Hillsborough, Lafayette, and Levy.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

As many as 14 counties may be required to issue new voter information cards reflecting the polling place address. While it varies from county to county, the average county cost to print and mail one card is roughly 52 cents. However, for electors who are registered to vote on July 1, 2009, the bill would allow the supervisor until 30 days before the next supervisor-administered election in which an elector is eligible to vote to comply with the polling place address requirement.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Ethics and Elections on March 3, 2009:**

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 264:

- removes the original bill's requirement for a uniform statewide voter information card;
- requires the supervisor to send out a new voter information card when the polling place address changes; and allows the supervisor until 30 days before the next supervisor-administered election in which an elector is eligible to vote in order to comply with the polling place address requirement for electors who are registered to vote on July 1, 2009.

**B. Amendments:**

None.