

Legislative Analysis



SIGNATURE VERIFICATION TRAINING FOR CLERKS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4845 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Diana Farrington

Committee: Elections and Ethics

Complete to 6-21-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4845 would amend the Michigan Election Law to require that the secretary of state (SOS) conduct signature verification training for county, city, and township clerks before the even-year primary election and before other elections as the SOS considers advisable. The training would have to include information on matching and verifying an elector's signature on an election document. The bill would require the SOS to promulgate rules to implement the training requirement.

Proposed MCL 168.31b

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill could result in increased ongoing costs for the Department of State's Bureau of Elections (BoE) if the department is not able to comply with the bill's training requirements with its existing personnel. The BoE currently provides ongoing training to the state's local clerks and other election officials through in-person and online training provided by the BoE's eLearning Center. The Department of State reports that it would need to hire an additional FTE to act as a dedicated signature verification trainer as required by the bill. The annual cost of an additional trainer is estimated to be approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

Michigan Association of County Clerks (5-25-21)

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (5-25-21)

Michigan Townships Association (6-8-21)

Promote the Vote (6-8-21)

A representative of the Department of State testified to a neutral position on the bill. (5-25-21)

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney

Fiscal Analyst: Michael Cnossen

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