

CHALLENGER IDENTIFICATION BADGE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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House Bill 5335 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. John Damoose
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 10-18-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5335 would amend the Michigan Election Law to require city and township clerks to provide challengers in that city's or township's precincts or absent voter (AV) counting boards with a visible identification badge that includes the word "challenger." The ID badge could include the precinct location or number but could *not* include any of the following:

- The challenger's name.
- The name or logo of a political party.
- Any other identifying mark or word not authorized in the bill.

At all times when serving as a challenger in a precinct or AV counting board, the challenger would have to wear the ID badge and carry his or her certificate of completion for election challenger training as proposed in House Bill 4528.¹ [Note: HB 4528 was passed by both the House and Senate but vetoed by the governor on October 3, 2021. It has been re-referred to the House Committee on Elections and Ethics.]

Upon arriving at a precinct or AV counting board, a challenger would also have to immediately check in with the election inspector chairperson for the precinct and provide his or her ID badge and certificate of completion for election challenger training. When leaving, the challenger would have to notify the election inspector chairperson and return the ID badge.

Upon the arrival or departure of any challenger, an election inspector would have to record the name of the challenger and times of arrival and departure in the poll book.

Additionally, if the challenger made a challenge, an election inspector would have to enter that challenge in the poll book and include how the challenge was resolved. If the challenge was rejected, an election inspector would have to note why the challenge was rejected.

The bill is tie-barred to HB 4528, which means that it could not take effect unless HB 4528 were also enacted.

MCL 168.735

¹ House Fiscal Agency analysis of HB 4528 as amended and passed by the House:
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2021-2022/billanalysis/House/pdf/2021-HLA-4528-A0067D4F.pdf>

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would result in marginal costs for cities and townships to produce challenger badges. Costs for each city or township would depend on the type of badge it produces and distributes to challengers. The average market price of custom one-time use paper stock badges is approximately \$100 for 1,000 badges; however, costs vary considerably depending on badge material. The estimated market price of reusable plastic PVC cards is approximately \$0.38 per card, plus the one-time cost of \$800 to \$2,500 for an ID card printer if the city or township does not already have a printer available to use.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state.

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney
Fiscal Analyst: Michael Cossen

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.