

CHALLENGER IDENTIFICATION BADGE

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House Bill 5335 (H-2) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. John Damoose
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 6-21-22

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 make available to challengers in that city's or township's precincts or absent voter (AV) counting boards 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.

Upon arriving at a precinct or AV counting board, a challenger would have to immediately check in with the election inspector chairperson for the precinct and obtain the ID badge. When leaving, the challenger would have to notify the election inspector chairperson and return the ID badge.

Upon the arrival and 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.

MCL 168.735

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.

POSITIONS:

A representative of Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections testified in support of the bill.
(10-19-21)

The following entities indicated opposition to the bill:

- Department of State (2-8-22)
- Montague City Clerk (10-19-21)
- Promote the Vote (10-19-21)
- ACLU of Michigan (10-19-21)
- American Association of University Women of Michigan (10-19-21)
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters (10-19-21)

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