

Fiscal Analysis

SCHOOL ELECTION CANCELLATIONS



Bill/Sponsor **HOUSE BILL 4215 (H-1)**, Rep. Christopher Ward
HOUSE BILL 4467 (H-1), Rep. Christopher Ward

House Committee Local Government and Urban Policy

Analysis

Summary

HB 4215 (H-1) would allow a school district to cancel an election if all of the following applied:

- The election was for school board members only,
- The deadline for declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate has passed, and
- There was only one candidate for each office on the ballot.

Under HB 4215 (H-1), if these circumstances are met, the school district may cancel the election and give notice of the cancellation to the electors of the school district. The candidate(s) on the ballot would then be considered to be elected to that office.

HB 4467 (H-1) would amend the Michigan Election Law to authorize county, city, village, or township clerks, or the boards of school districts, to cancel general or special elections if all of the following criteria are met:

- There are no ballot questions on the ballot;
- The deadline for filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate has passed;
- There is only one candidate on the ballot for each office on the ballot, or for a nonpartisan election, there is the same number of candidates as there is individuals to be elected; and
- In the case of a city, township, or village election, officers are not to be elected to a particular office based on the total number of votes a candidate receives.

If these criteria are met, the county, city, village, or township clerks, or the boards of school districts, may cancel the election and give notice of the cancellation to the county, city, village, township, or school district electors. The candidate(s) on the ballot would then be considered to be elected to that office.

Fiscal Impact

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HBs 4215 (H-1) and 4467 (H-1) would have no fiscal impact on the state. However, the bills would create an indeterminate amount of savings to local school districts and local units of government that cancel elections. Currently, local school districts and local units of government are responsible for the costs associated with local elections. By canceling uncontested elections, local school districts and local units of government would have reduced election costs. The amount of savings to local school districts and local units of government would vary, depending on the number of precincts and typical printing costs.

Analyst(s)

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FLOOR ANALYSIS - 1/13/04

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