

Senate Fiscal Agency
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SFA**BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bill 157 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Martha G. Scott
Committee: Education

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to require that the question of whether to retain the school reform board and chief executive officer of a first class school district, and the authority to appoint them, be placed on the ballot at the August 2003 primary election in the city in which the district is located. Currently, that question must be placed on the ballot in the November 2004 general election. (The Code defines a district of the first class as one with a pupil membership of at least 100,000, i.e., the Detroit Public Schools.)

Under the Code, if the ballot question is approved by a majority of the school electors voting on it, all of the following apply: The school reform board and the chief executive officer continue in place in the district; the authority of the mayor to appoint members of the school reform board continues; and the question may be placed on the ballot again after the expiration of five years following the election at which the question is approved, if sufficient petitions are filed.

If the ballot question is not approved, the school reform board must arrange with local election officials for the election of a new elected school board for the school district. This election must be at a special election held as soon as practicable, but not sooner than 90 days after the election on the ballot question.

The bill would retain these provisions.

MCL 280.375

Legislative Analyst: Claire Layman

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State government. If the question were on the ballot of an already scheduled election, such as a primary election as stated in the bill, then there would be no additional cost. However, if the question were presented on its own in a special election, the cost to the City of Detroit to hold the election would be an estimated \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million, according to recent election costs.

Date Completed: 3-31-03

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco