

POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS

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House Bill 6071 (S-1) as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Rep. Ann M. Bollin
House Committee: Elections and Ethics
Senate Committee: Elections
Complete to 9-28-22

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 6071 would amend the Michigan Election Law to expand the types of locations that may be used as polling places.

Currently, school buildings, fire stations, police stations, and other publicly owned or controlled buildings must be used as polling places. Other buildings owned by tax-exempt organizations may be designated if public buildings are not available or convenient.

However, such a building that is owned by a person that is a sponsor of a political committee or independent committee cannot be designated as a polling place.

The bill would add that such a building that is owned by an individual who is a candidate also cannot be designated as a polling place.

The act also now allows senior housing facilities or complexes and apartment buildings or complexes in which 150 or more people reside to be designated as polling places.

The bill would provide that, if a suitable polling place as described above is not reasonably available or convenient for use, the legislative body of a city or township may establish a polling place at any privately owned banquet or conference center or recreation clubhouse. However, it could not designate as a polling place such a building that is owned by a person that is a sponsor of a political committee or independent committee or is a candidate. The bill would require that, before designating such a building that is not publicly owned or controlled as a polling place, the city or township clerk must obtain a signed affidavit from the building's owner or manager, certifying that the building owner is not a sponsor of a political committee or independent committee or a candidate.

Finally, the bill would remove a provision that requires the legislative body of a city, village, or township to arrange for the rental or erection of polling places if publicly owned or controlled buildings are unavailable and to ensure that those polling places are equipped with lighting, heat, and ventilation.

The bill would go into effect January 1, 2023.

MCL 168.662

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 6071 would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Michigan Townships Association (5-10-22)
- Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (5-24-22)
- Michigan Association of County Clerks (5-24-22)

A representative of Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections testified to a neutral position on the bill. (5-10-22)

The Department of State indicated a neutral position on the bill. (5-24-22)

Legislative Analyst: Holly Kuhn
Fiscal Analyst: Michael Cnossen

■ 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.