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**HF 95** – Voter Photo Identification Requirement (LSB 1214HV.1)  
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Fiscal Note Version – Revised

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### **Description**

**House File 95** requires all voters to show proof of identification before being allowed to vote at the polls. The Bill requires the proof of identification to include:

- The name of the person that matches the election register.
- A photograph of the person.
- An expiration date that is no more than 60 days past the expiration date at the time the card is presented as proof of identification.
- A document issued by the State of Iowa, including a State university or the U.S. government.

The Bill allows a voter to cast a provisional ballot in certain circumstances when the required proof of identification is not provided. If a voter casts a provisional ballot, the voter has until the Monday following the election to appear before the Absentee Ballot and Special Voters Precinct Election Board to execute an affidavit.

The Bill requires the Department of Public Health to provide, free of charge, a certified copy of a birth certificate to an individual who has executed an affidavit stating that the birth certificate is needed for obtaining an Iowa nonoperator identification card for voting. The Bill also allows a person to receive a nonoperator identification card for voting purposes from the Department of Transportation (DOT) free of charge. The Bill takes effect on January 1, 2012.

### **Background and Assumptions**

- Persons most likely impacted by HF 95, from a State fiscal impact perspective, would include a combination of the following general characteristics:
  - A person who is an active voter.
  - A person who does not have a birth certificate or any other form of identification required to be issued a nonoperator identification.
  - A person who votes in-person at the polls or vote an absentee ballot in-person.
  - A person who does not possess a photo identification issued by the State of Iowa or the U.S. government.
  - A person who purchases a nonoperator identification card.
- The cost of a certified copy of a birth certificate is \$15. The Bill requires an individual needing a birth certificate for voting purposes to sign an affidavit indicating the birth certificate is necessary for obtaining a nonoperator identification card.
- The cost of a DOT-issued nonoperator identification card is \$5 for a new issue and renewal, \$3 to replace a lost card, and \$1 to update information (i.e., address and name change). Nonoperator identification cards are valid for five years.
- The DOT issued an average of 73,000 nonoperator identification cards over the last two fiscal years. Approximately, 9% of the total cards issued (6,570) are either replacement

cards or information updates, issued at the lower fee. The remainder of the cards (66,430) are issued at the \$5 fee.

- It is assumed that persons routinely purchasing and renewing nonoperator identification cards will request the identification cards for voting purposes and receive the cards at no charge. This assumption is based on the experience in Indiana where nearly all nonoperator identification cards issued to persons 18 and over are issued free of charge.
- All fees collected from the issuance of nonoperator identification cards are deposited in the Road Use Tax Fund.
- There are 2.2 million licensed drivers in Iowa aged 18 and over.
- There are 2.1 million registered voters in Iowa. Approximately 53.0% (1.1 million) of registered voters vote in nonpresidential general elections and 71.0% (1.5 million) vote in presidential general elections.
- In the 2010 general election, 359,113 persons cast votes via absentee ballot. This represents 35.0% of the total votes cast.

### **Fiscal Impact**

It is estimated that HF 95 will result in a loss of revenue to the Road Use Tax Fund of \$173,000 in FY 2012 and \$345,000 each year thereafter to reflect the cost of providing identification cards at no charge for the current level of customers.

The fiscal impact resulting from the increased number of persons obtaining nonoperator identification cards and birth certificates as a result of the new voting requirements of this Bill cannot be determined at this time.

### **Sources**

Department of Transportation  
Iowa Secretary of State

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

January 27, 2011

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to **Joint Rule 17** and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to Iowa Code **Section 2.56**. Data used in developing this fiscal note, including correctional and minority impact information, is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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