HOUSE BILL 3 – SENATE SUB BILL PROPOSALS

→ Helps to prevent unscrupulous individuals from voting in a registered voter’s name, by requiring that all voters provide identification when voting. Identification may be a current and valid photo identification or one of the forms of identification provided for under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) (copy of current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows name and address of voter). If the voter does not submit one of these forms of identification, the voter may submit the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number or sign an affirmation under penalty of perjury. Voters who chose to submit the last four digits of the voter’s SSN or to sign an affirmation in place of any of the allowable forms of identification, must vote provisionally, thereby giving officials at boards of elections an opportunity to verify the identity of the voter, while protecting their privacy. Note: under the proposal, current and valid photo identification must include the voter’s name, address, photo, an expiration date that has not expired, and it must be issued by the US government or this state.

→ Maintains current law that allows voters to change political party affiliations when they vote in a primary, rather than at any time.

→ Removes the burdensome requirement for random sampling recounts within two months after general election of any countywide elections using DRE machines. All results are already required to be verified and reported to the Secretary of State.

→ Clarifies the procedure for boards of elections that provide voting assistance to the home-bound and disabled, e.g. nursing home voting assistance, ensuring that one election official from both major political parties is present.

→ Removes changes to current law related to the election of certain municipal judges (but maintains uniform petition signature requirements).

→ Removes the provision that allows split shifts for poll workers.

→ Bans (Florida-style) arrow optical scan voting methods in Ohio.

→ Narrows the private right of action for election-related harassment (removes causes of action against boards of elections or the Secretary of State).

→ Requires the Secretary of State to post any directives or decisions made during conference calls with boards of elections on the Secretary of State’s web site within 24 hours of the call to ensure better communication across the state as it relates to the conduct of Ohio’s elections.

→ Reduces the cost to boards of elections by reducing the number of advertising runs for local ballot issues from three times in current law to one time, but requires boards of elections to post ballot issue information for 30 days prior to the election on either locally-maintained web sites or through free web space provided by the Secretary of State’s office.
→ Enhances voter fraud protections by prohibiting the use of “ballot on demand” if ballots do not have tracking numbers.

→ Requires voter registration forms or absentee ballots to be submitted within 10 days of completion or the due date to the boards of elections, whichever is earliest.

→ Requires initiative and referendum petitions to be filed with original signatures.

→ Allows the attorney general to bring criminal actions based on fraud related to the conduct of election, voting, or fraud occurring during initiative/referendum petition processes (but does not include campaign finance violations).

→ Requires that election reminder notifications be sent to voters 90 days prior to the election (current version of HB 3 requires 45 days).

→ Clarifies signature requirements for disabled voters who are not able to sign their own signature.

→ Clarifies “precinct finder” language.

→ Re-enacts prohibition against running for federal office and state/local office in the same election.