**PRESS RELEASE**
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# Kemp to Sign Voting System Bill that Violates Fiscal Law

ATLANTA GA – A new VoterGA cost analysis based on actual costs from vendor responses confirms legislator claims that the HB316 voting system bill **violates Georgia fiscal note laws.** The bill is currently awaiting the signature of Governor Brian Kemp without the required fiscal note that provides details of expenditures by the state and the funding impacts on counties for new mandates.

Georgia law requires a fiscal note for *"any bill having a significant impact on the anticipated revenue or expenditure level of any state department, bureau, board, council, committee, commission, or other state agency*". **Bill sponsor Barry Fleming** (R-Augusta) **was required to request a fiscal note by November 1 of last year**. Georgia law also requires a fiscal note for any expenditure *"which in the aggregate exceeds $5 million of public funds by local political subdivisions"* [O.C.G.A 28.5.42, O.C.G.A 28.5.49]

Fleming contended that since the money was appropriated in the budget no fiscal note is needed. The budget contains a $150 million line item for the voting system but no cost analysis of whether or not the amount is sufficient. Georgia Senators challenged the bill but Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan ruled that budgeting was sufficient. Georgia code makes **no such exception**. He also ruled on a separate challenge there was **no evidence** that aggregate costs to counties would exceed $5 million. Previously published estimates from VoterGA and the Open Source Election Technology [OSET] Institute show costs to be almost triple that amount.

The new VoterGA analysis is the **first** to combine vendor cost responses, proposed state configurations and estimates of expenses like testing, auditing and logistics. It shows that initial expenses to properly configure counties with the new system will likely **exceed the $150 million** budgeted bond amount. It also confirms annual unbudgeted costs that must be allocated to counties will **exceed $15 million**. That is **$100 million more and $8 million more annually** than hand marked and ballot on demand systems considered more secure and more auditable by all experts.

The bond term designates **a 20 year payback even though life expectancy of the equipment is only 10 years**. That would require another $50 million in interest payments for a total outlay of over **$350 million**. The **interest alone roughly equals the cost of more secure systems**. The drive to purchase the most expensive, least secure and auditable system is dubbed *"Barry's Boondoggle"*.