

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELB 6/17/2007

LRB Number	07-1932/1	Introduction Number	AB-0587	Estimate Type	Original
Description Eliminating the authority for certain electors to vote a straight party ticket					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation removes the ability of a voter to cast a straight party vote by making a single designation while voting.

The primary cost components of the legislation are changes to information and training materials along with a modification to existing voting equipment tabulation software. The cost of developing and distributing new informational and training materials is estimated to be approximately \$25,000 including an electronic instructional format.

Vendors may incur significant costs in modifying the vote tabulating software because any change will have to be certified by the U.S Election Assistance Commission. This is a lengthy and costly process. Vendors will likely pass these costs on to local governments who are responsible for maintaining qualified voting systems. The agency is unable to project the potential cost increase resulting from this change.

Local government will also have to devote time and resources to training poll workers.

In addition the Board will have to devote significant staff resources and time to test the new tabulation software. The voting system approval testing process generally involves a minimum of 80 hours of staff time

The legislation does not require the Government Accountability Board to conduct an informational campaign about the voting option authorized by the bill. It appears to be a prudent course of action. That cost has not been developed as part of this fiscal estimate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

There are no long range fiscal implications.