

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

GAB 4/1/2010

LRB Number	09-2824/3	Introduction Number	AB-0892	Estimate Type	Original
Description Electronic voter registration and proof of residence for voting in an election and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposed legislation would permit a qualified elector who has a current and valid driver license or identification card issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to register to vote for an election electronically using a secure Internet site maintained by the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.). Under the bill, G.A.B. prescribes by rule, the manner and method of electronic application together with the requirements for affirmation and verification of elector information and the method for receipt of electronic application forms. The bill permits an elector who is currently registered to vote and who has a current and valid driver license or identification card to enter a name change or address change using a similar procedure.

The clerk or board of election commissioners of the elector's municipality of residence must verify the registration by sending a first-class letter or postcard to the registrant.

If the registrant is voting for the first time in an election in this state, the registrant must provide proof of residence before voting in the election. This bill provides that if an elector who registers electronically provides his or her Wisconsin driver license or identification card number, together with his or her name and date of birth, and G.A.B. is able to instantly verify the information electronically by accessing the records of the DOT, the elector need not provide proof of residence prior to voting. The bill directs G.A.B. and DOT to enter into an agreement that permits the G.A.B. to verify the necessary information instantly by accessing DOT electronic files.

The bill requires G.A.B. and DOT to report quarterly to the legislature until implementation is complete.

Increased Cost to the State:

The proposed legislation requires the G.A.B. to modify the existing interface with DMV. In addition, G.A.B. will need to create a secured registration form that can electronically enter voter application information into SVRS.

Based upon the online voting requirements outlined in AB-0892, we estimate the following items would have to be developed in order for this legislation to be successfully implemented:

1. A voter portal providing information and guidance to current and potential voters.
2. An online voter registration module enabled to do real-time validation against DOT records.
3. An online voter self-service address and name modification module with DOT data interchange.
4. A module to manage the "behind the scenes" data interchange between G.A.B. and DOT.
5. A module to interface with address cleansing routines to capture Post Office verified addresses.
6. A module to calculate Geographic location ("geo-code") on voter records to be used during redistricting and polling location.
7. An integration into SVRS' business logic to manage voter records in the same method currently done through direct entry by certified voting officials.
8. An integration into SVRS' function logic to manage voter record database transactions in the same method which is currently done by certified voting officials.
9. An integration into SVRS' functional logic to provide the same level of audit and database logging as is currently done.
10. An integration into SVRS' functional logic to enable reporting of voter online activity.
11. A module to provide auditing of voter online activity.
12. These new requirements will have an impact on SVRS infrastructure to support the new online voter registration, voter data management, reporting and data storage.

Based upon the above items, we estimate it will require:

1. 1 Project Manager to manage the project activity and coordinate interfaces with DOT.
2. 1 Business Analyst to develop business requirements, develop voter user interface, provide testing scripts and define DOT/G.A.B. data real-time interchange.
3. 2 Application Developers to develop the modules, online system, build DOT integration Web Services and build auditing system.
4. 1 Database Administration to manage the data exchange, build new database tables and integrate new database elements into SVRS.

We estimate the life cycle of this project will require:

1. 1 month project initiation, start-up
2. 2 months of analysis and requirements definition.
3. 2 months of database design, application design, UI definition, data interchange design.
4. 5 months of application development and system testing
5. 2 months of integration and user acceptance testing
6. 1 month of implementation, training and start-up break-fix

Based on our review of AB-0892, our best time estimate is that this could be at least a 13 month effort.

1. 8,100 hours to 12,150 hours of effort at a contracting blended rate of \$90/hour.
2. Range cost of \$729,000 to \$1,093,500.
3. Annual increase in infrastructure (web server, real-time data interchange environment, etc.) cost of \$35,000.

An annual cost of \$250,000 for mailing voter verification postcards.

Currently the G.A.B., on behalf of the local municipalities, has been mailing the required verification postcard for registrations submitted by mail, by special registration deputy, and on Election Day. The current cost for mailing voter verification postcard for G.A.B. is \$250,000 per year. The voter verification costs are likely to remain the same because the majority of Wisconsin's registrations are Election Day Registrations that already require that a verification post card be sent.

Decreased Cost to Local Government:

Municipal and County clerks see a reduction in the amount of staff time required for data entry of paper forms. Registration electronically will also reduce the amount of time correcting data entry errors. Typographical errors and data entry issues have been identified as an issue in verifying voter data with the current DOT verification system required by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Electronic registration with automatic verification of DOT data would not only reduce initial data entry time for local election officials but will also reduce mailing costs and staff costs necessary for verifying and correcting voter data.

In 2008 the City of Milwaukee processed 170,000 paper voter application forms, and spent approximately \$150,000 to hire a data entry vendor to process those forms.

In 2008 the City of Madison processed 89,166 voter applications at an estimated data entry cost of \$67,173.58.

Decreased costs to municipalities and counties for data entry of paper forms could be as high as \$150,000 per year.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Increased cost to the State of \$35,000 per year for maintenance of the electronic system.

Reduction in cost to municipalities of approximately \$150,000 per year for staff data entry processing time.

Net cost reduction of \$115,000.