



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

GAB 6/12/2009

LRB Number	09-1074/1	Introduction Number	SB-199	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Requiring certain identification in order to vote at a polling place or obtain an absentee ballot, verification of the addresses of electors, absentee voting procedure in certain residential care apartment complexes and adult family homes, and the fee for an identification card issued by the Department of Transportation					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

#### Summary of Bill

By requiring a voter to provide acceptable identification before voting, this bill creates another reason (there are currently two) that an elector may vote provisionally. All voters appearing at the polling place must provide identification. An absentee voter must enclose a copy of ID with his or her voted ballot. Whether voting in person or by absentee ballot, if ID is not provided, the voter's ballot is treated as a provisional ballot. Several exceptions and contingencies to the ID requirement are included in the bill (confidential electors, persons whom law enforcement has required surrender of driver license, military and overseas electors, indefinitely confined electors voting by Special Voting Deputy (SVD) or not voting by SVD, and voters who have submitted ID in previously in connection with voting by absentee ballot). The bill also eliminates the option to use a corroborator in lieu of providing proof of residence. The bill permits the use of SVDs in two additional types of facilities.

#### Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS)

The SVRS would need to be modified in order to track whether an absentee voter has previously submitted ID and is, therefore, not required to provide ID with subsequent absentee ballot submissions. SVRS modification would also be needed to update the absentee ballot function in order to support the ID requirement and to manage the additional provisional ballot scenario. Training for clerks that use the SVRS would be imperative.

Staff is currently working on an early-voting pilot project requiring modifications to SVRS. The cost to design, develop, test and implement the modifications to SVRS over a six-month period for the early vote project is estimated at \$384,000. It is expected that additional modifications required by this bill would be similar to those required for the early-voting project, but would require a time frame closer to two months. The anticipated cost of SVRS modifications required by this bill is \$128,000.

#### Training

The Web-Based Election Training System WBETS is used as an instructional tool for municipal and county clerks who have access to the SVRS system. To effectively train clerks on entering and tracking the additional provisional and absentee data, approximately 5 training modules would need to be added to WBETS. Each module would include a business process PowerPoint presentation; interactive, step-by-step instruction; video instruction and SVRS screen shots. Existing hard-copy instructional materials would require revision.

Designing, developing, testing and implementing the 5 modules and their respective components would require two G.A.B. trainers dedicated to the project for approximately six weeks. Staff time for two trainers working a total of 480 hours at an hourly rate of \$19, plus the cost of revising and distributing hard copy instructional materials is approximately \$10,000.

The bill imports additional detailed and somewhat complicated concepts for clerks and election inspectors to grasp. Current in-person training of municipal clerks and chief inspectors would need to be expanded to include these new procedures and requirements. At least one WisLine program would need to be dedicated to the new requirements and procedures.

#### Forms and Materials Revision

In addition to the WBETS materials mentioned above, several Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.)

forms and manuals would also require revision:

1. Application for Absentee Ballot (GAB-121) – Add checkbox to indicate ID had been presented.
2. Application for Voter Registration (GAB-131) – Eliminate corroborator references.
3. Certificate Envelope for Provision Ballot (GAB-123) – Add checkbox for additional provisional voting reason.
4. Uniform Instructions for Absentee Voters – Include information about ID requirement
5. Faxing and Emailing Ballots – Include information about ID requirement.
6. Notice of Election and Sample Ballot (Type B Notice) – Revise to include instructions to provide ID. Eliminate corroborator language.
7. Absentee Voting in Nursing Homes, Community-Based Residential Facilities and Qualified Retirement Homes – Add information with respect to the additional two types of facilities that may utilize Special Voting Deputies. Also, add information regarding alternate ID that residents may provide.
8. Election Day Manual – Incorporate ID requirements for absentee voters and additional provisional voting information. Provide instruction for managing additional duties at the polling place.
- 9 Election Administration Manual - Incorporate ID requirements for absentee voters and additional provisional voting information. Provide instruction for managing additional duties in clerk's office.

The cost to the G.A.B. to revise forms and manuals is negligible. The brunt of the cost is borne by local governments that will need to purchase updated forms and manuals. Local governments may also be required to employ additional staff and election officials to manage the increase in Election Day issues and traffic resulting from the additional provisional voting scenario. Voters attempting to vote without acceptable ID may choose to vote provisionally or may choose to retrieve ID and return to the polling place to vote. The municipal clerk's office would experience additional activity, traffic, phone calls, etc, due to voters following up on requirement to provide ID. There will also be a learning curve for inspectors and clerks due to the complexity of the bill.

#### Fiscal Impact

G.A.B. staff estimates a one-time cost of approximately \$138,000 dollars to modify the Statewide Voter Registration System and Web-based Election Training System, and to update hard-copy training materials. An increase in GPR would be requested in order to absorb this non-budgeted \$138,000.

G.A.B. staff anticipates an indeterminate and on-going cost to local governmental units in the form of purchase of updated forms, manuals and materials; additional staff, additional polling place personnel; and additional training costs.

#### **Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

G.A.B. staff anticipates an indeterminate and on-going cost to local governmental units in the form of purchase of updated forms, manuals and materials; additional staff, additional polling place personnel; and additional training costs.