



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**  
**GAB 2/20/2014**

LRB Number	<b>13-0058/2</b>	Introduction Number	<b>AB-0753</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> Electronic voter registration, verification of certain registrations, and proof of residence for voting in an election and granting rule-making authority					

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

**I. Bill Summary**

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 this bill, a qualified elector enters the same information that appears on the current registration form and authorizes DOT to forward a copy of his or her electronic signature to GAB. G.A.B. shall integrate the signature into the applicant's electronic application. 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 bill also requires that an electronic registration be completed no later than the 20th day before an election.

The clerk or board of election commissioners of the elector's municipality of residence must verify all electronic registrations by sending a first-class letter or postcard to the registrant, similar to voters who register via mail, a special registration deputy, or registration drive, or on Election Day.

Under current law, a registrant must provide proof of residence when registering within 20 days of an election, on Election Day, or when registering by mail as a first-time elector in this state. This bill provides that a voter does not need to provide proof of residence if the elector provides his or her Wisconsin driver license or identification card number and his or her name and date of birth. G.A.B. is able to instantly verify the information electronically by accessing the records of the DOT. DOT also provides the signature instantly to the G.A.B.

The bill directs G.A.B. and DOT to enter into an agreement that permits G.A.B. to verify the necessary information instantly by accessing DOT electronic files. The bill also requires G.A.B. and DOT to report quarterly to the legislature until implementation is complete.

**II. Project Timeline**

G.A.B. estimates the life cycle for implementing online voter registration would require:

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

G.A.B. estimates that the legislation would require at least a six-month effort to complete the full design, development, testing, and implementation phases of the project.

**III. Increased Costs**

The proposed legislation requires the G.A.B. to modify its existing electronic interface with DOT. In addition, G.A.B. would need to modify the existing secured registration portal to allow a voter to complete a registration application without submitting a paper form. The applicant's signature would need to be electronically integrated with the voter application. Voter applications entered on the secured portal would need to be transmitted into the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) immediately upon completion of the instant verification from DOT.

Based upon the requirements outlined in the legislation, G.A.B. would need to develop additional elements in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS), including an online voter registration module capable of real-time validation against DOT records, as well as a module to capture and integrate electronic signatures into the SVRS database and into the electronic voter registration application. These new components would require ongoing maintenance and support beyond the initial development.

#### A. Initial Infrastructure Costs

To implement online voter registration, the following infrastructure would be required:

1. Three SQL database servers to manage the data at an annual cost of \$18,800.
2. Three Data Interchange Environments to manage the data exchange between DOT and G.A.B. at an annual cost of \$6,732.
3. One (1) terabyte of data storage to store the voter registration data and the electronic signatures at an annual cost of \$7,200.

Total infrastructure costs are estimated as \$32,112.

#### B. Implementation Project Team

G.A.B. estimates that implementing the legislation would require the following use of staff. The first six positions listed are IT contract staff and the remaining positions are G.A.B. program staff.

Position\	Weeks\	Hours/Week\	Rate\	Total
Project Manager	26	40	\$100	\$104,000
Business Analyst	26	40	\$85	\$88,400
Solution Architect	26	40	\$80	\$83,200
Application Developer	26	10	\$68	\$17,680
Database Administrator	26	40	\$80	\$83,200
Infrastructure Support	26	10	\$65	\$16,900
Testing Lead	9	20	\$35	\$6,300
Training Coordinator	2	20	\$35	\$1,400
SVRS Specialist (2)	17	20	\$33	\$22,400
Total Personnel Costs (including contractors)				\$423,480

The total estimated G.A.B. infrastructure and personnel costs to initially implement the legislation are \$455,592.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications

#### I. Increased Costs

To maintain and operate online voter registration, the following infrastructure would be required:

1. Three SQL database servers to manage the data at an annual cost of \$18,800.00.
2. Three Data Interchange Environments to manage the data exchange between DOT and G.A.B. at an annual cost of \$6,732.00.
3. One (1) terabyte of data storage to store the voter registration data and the electronic signatures at an annual cost of \$7,200.00.

Total annual infrastructure costs are estimated as \$32,112.00.

G.A.B. estimates that maintaining and operating the online voter registration system would require the following use of staff in the second and subsequent years. The first three positions listed are IT contract staff and the remaining position is G.A.B. program staff.

Position	Weeks\	Hours/Week\	Rate\	Total
Application Developer	52	5	\$68	\$17,680
Database Administrator	52	5	\$80	\$20,800
Infrastructure Support	52	5	\$65	\$16,900

SVRS Elections Specialist 52 5 \$33 \$8,580  
Total Annual Personnel Costs (including contractors) \$63,960

Total estimated annual ongoing costs of required infrastructure and personnel are \$96,072 per year.

#### IV. Decreased Costs

G.A.B. staff anticipates that this proposed legislation would substantially decrease costs to municipal and county governments immediately and on an ongoing basis. These savings would be realized through the reduction of time and resources required to process paper-based voter registration forms and to correct errors resulting from a paper-based system. The amount of cost savings depends upon the percentage of voter registrations that are completed by voters using the online system rather than by submitting paper applications. Between the 2008 Presidential and General Election and the 2012 Presidential and General Election, there were 1,518,876 voter registrations in the State of Wisconsin. This translates to an average of 379,179 voter registrations processed annually.

The G.A.B. collaborated with the LaFollette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Madison to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of online voter registration during the fall 2013 semester. The in-depth report is available on the agency's website and concluded that the legislation would result in cost savings to municipalities of \$1,701,500 over the initial ten-year period, summarized as follows:

1. Savings of \$13,200 due to reduced need for paper and ink.
2. Savings of \$1,326,500 in staff time in municipal clerks' offices to process registration forms, including incomplete or illegible forms.
3. Savings of \$361,500 in election inspector costs due to reduced number of voters registering on Election Day.

The cost-benefit analysis report concluded that implementing online voter registration would likely result in an overall net benefit for Wisconsin of \$1.01 million over the first 10-year period, when taking into account the costs and benefits related to the State (both G.A.B. and DOT), municipalities, and the public.

## Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2013 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> 13-0058/2		<b>Introduction Number</b> AB-0753	
<b>Description</b> Electronic voter registration, verification of certain registrations, and proof of residence for voting in an election and granting rule-making authority			
<b>I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):</b>  The total implementation costs of the legislation is estimated as \$455,592			
<b>II. Annualized Costs:</b>		<b>Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:</b>	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$8,580		\$
(FTE Position Changes)			
State Operations - Other Costs	87,492		
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>	<b>\$96,072</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>			
GPR	96,072		
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, ets.)</b>			
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev	
GPR Taxes	\$		\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT</b>			
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>	
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$96,072		-\$170,150
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$		\$
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>			
GAB/ Michael Haas (608) 266-8005		<b>Authorized Signature</b>	
		Kevin Kennedy (608) 266-8005	
		<b>Date</b>	
		2/20/2014	