Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

☒ Original	☐ Updated	☐ Corrected	☐ Supplemental

LRB Number 19-5649/1	**Introduction Number** SB-794

Description
authorizing certain overseas and military voters to vote absentee by electronic transmission and granting rule-making authority

Fiscal Effect

State:
☐ No State Fiscal Effect
☒ Indeterminate

☐ Increase Existing Appropriations
☐ Decrease Existing Appropriations
☐ Create New Appropriations

☐ Increase Existing Revenues
☐ Decrease Existing Revenues

☒ Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
   ☒ Yes   ☐ No
☐ Decrease Costs

Local:
☐ No Local Government Costs
☐ Indeterminate

1. ☐ Increase Costs
   ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory
2. ☐ Decrease Costs
   ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

3. ☐ Increase Revenue
   ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory
4. ☐ Decrease Revenue
   ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
☐ Towns ☐ Village ☐ Cities
☐ Counties ☐ Others
☐ School Districts ☐ WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected	**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**
☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By	**Authorized Signature**	**Date**
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Description
authorizing certain overseas and military voters to vote absentee by electronic transmission and granting rule-making authority

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The current version of the bill requires the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to create an online portal that allows a military voter to access, complete and electronically sign their absentee ballot through the use of a federal common access card (CAC).

The WEC created an online ballot delivery system in 2012 that military voters are eligible to use to request, receive, and mark their ballot for each election. WEC staff anticipates that additional functionality could be added to this system to allow for military voters to also return their voted ballot. In order to implement online ballot return for military voters the data transmitted from the voter to their local election official would have to be encrypted in transit and stored in a secure manner before the ballot was printed. The WEC would also have to develop a system to verify information from the voter through the use of the CAC card to verify their identity and allow them to digitally sign their ballot.

The WEC would also have to update training and voter information materials to reflect the changes in procedures for clerks and voters. Costs associated with the program would be largely IT contractor time. There would also be licensing costs for security certificates and other security measures such as the ability to encrypt and decrypt data at multiple stages in the ballot return process. Nearly 2000 hours of staff and IT contractor time is anticipated to fully implement a secure and usable solution for electronic return into our existing website.

The WEC recently received approval to accept a federal grant to improve election security. It is believed that the development and implementation of technology needed to securely deliver the solution outlined in the legislation could be cover by existing grant funds. Should the bill be passed WEC staff would propose an implementation and spending plan for the project to their oversight Commission for approval. It is also assumed that there may be additional server and storage cost needed to accommodate the return of electronic ballots which will then be accessed by municipal election officials through the statewide database.

Each of the steps in the secure transmission of a military voter's voted ballot will need to be thoughtfully considered to ensure integrity in the process. Cyber security threats are continuously evolving; therefore, there may be additional costs needed to securely develop the return process that cannot be forecast at this time.

Potential Cost Components:
Staff salaries are estimated based on an average rate plus fringe. The exact costs for staff time may vary based on the project needs identified during the development process.

1. Upgrade current agency voter services website to allow for online return: $203,320
a. Requirements gathering:
i. IS Technical Services Spec.: 40 hrs @ $40 (CAC card research)
ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 40 hrs @ $42 (Project Management)
iii. Attorney: 20 hrs @ $45 (Legal analysis)
iv. Administrator: 4 hrs @ $55 (Input and sign-off)
v. Elections Specialist: 600 hrs @ $30 (Develop reqs. docs)
b. Usability testing:
i. IS Technical Services Cons.: 180 hrs @ $40 (Prj mgmt., testing)
ii. Elections Specialist: 1000 hrs @ $30 (Frames, sched, test)
c. User UI implementation:
i. Contract developer: 35 hrs @ $100 (Development)

ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 2 hrs @ $45 (Project management)
iii. IS Technical Services Spec.: 15 hrs @ $40 (Security design, test)
d. Clerk UI implementation:
i. Contract developer: 65 hrs @ $100 (Development)
ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 2 hrs @ $45 (Project management)
iii. IS Technical Services Spec.: 15 hrs @ $40 (Security design, test)
e. CAC signature implementation:
i. Contract developer: 60 hrs @ $100 (Development)
ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 2 hrs @ $45 (Project management)
iii. IS Technical Services Spec.: 40 hrs @ $40 (Security design, test)
f. CAC verification implementation:
i. Contract developer: 90 hrs @ $100 (Development)
ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 2 hrs @ $45 (Project management)
iii. IS Technical Services Spec.: 40 hrs @ $40 (Security design, test)
g. Client encryption implementation:
i. Contract developer: 120 hrs @ $100 (Development)
ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 2 hrs @ $45 (Project management)
iii. IS Technical Services Spec.: 40 hrs @ $40 (Security design, test)
h. Ballot transmission implementation:
i. Contract Developer: 360 hrs @ $100 (Development)
ii. IS Technical Services Cons.: 2 hrs @ $45 (Project management)
iii. IS Technical Services Spec.: 10 hrs @ $40 (Security design, test)
i. Internal software testing:
i. Elections Specialist: 800 hrs @ $30
j. Third party penetration test: $40,000
k. Licensing, encryption and storage: Unknown until product chosen

Long-Range Fiscal Implications