

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELB 4/3/2006

LRB Number	05-4516/1	Introduction Number	SB-634	Estimate Type	Original
Description Verification of the citizenship status of registering electors and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation directs the State Elections Board (SEB) to prescribe a procedure for verifying the citizenship status of electors who register to vote at the time of registration. Under the procedure the SEB must require poll workers and municipal clerks who accept absentee ballots to challenge the votes of all registrants who are not U. S. citizens.

The legislation presumes that there exists a source list of all U.S. citizens or non-citizens that can be accessed by the SEB and local election officials. This is not the case. It is possible that eventually the federal government will develop such a registry. It is not clear that state and local election officials will have access to the list.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) may be able to assist the SEB under recent provisions requiring all driver's license applicants to prove citizenship. Since the SEB has an connection to the DOT, this may be able to be accomplished electronically. However, this assumes state and federal law permit access to proof of citizenship collected by DOT.

In the absence of access to such a list, the SEB will have require all registrants to provide proof of citizenship at the time of registration. This will impose additional processing costs on local election officials. These costs include more time spent reviewing registration applications, training and tracking of citizenship information. Special procedures will also have to be developed for Election Day registrations.

In addition the SEB will have to modify the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) to enable tracking citizenship-related information. The cost of this enhancement is unknown.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

These indeterminate costs will continue. If a viable source registry of citizenship is made available to state and local election officials, there will be costs to design the interface to that registry along with maintenance costs.