

Fiscal Estimate - 2007 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 07-0971/1	Introduction Number AB-0158	
Description Relating to: the deadline and procedure for voter registration and the determination of residency for voting purposes		
Fiscal Effect		
State:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
Local:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 20.511		
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations		
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
ELB/ Kevin Kennedy (608) 266-8005	Kevin Kennedy (608) 266-8005	3/29/2007

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELB 3/29/2007

LRB Number	07-0971/1	Introduction Number	AB-0158	Estimate Type	Original
Description Relating to: the deadline and procedure for voter registration and the determination of residency for voting purposes					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation makes several changes in voter registration deadlines. The practical impact of the legislation is that it eliminates Election Day registration. All voters must be registered by 14 days before Election Day. The 10-day residence requirement is changed to 14 days to harmonize with the new registration deadline. Voters changing their name or residence within a ward may make this change at the polling place on Election Day.

If enacted, the legislation will activate certain requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA). This will require state offices providing driver's license services, public assistance services, state-funded services to people with disabilities, colleges, universities and armed forces recruiting centers to offer each applicant the opportunity to register to vote for each and every face to face transaction. The state office will have to keep a record of whether the individual declined the opportunity to register and will have to immediately forward completed registration forms to the appropriate municipal clerk. Statistics on the number of voter registration forms collected and the number of declinations will have to be transmitted to the appropriate state or local election official.

This will result in additional, significant, unquantifiable state costs because state staff in these offices will have to be trained on how to review and process voter registration forms. These staff will be diverted from their primary responsibility of providing driver's license or public assistance services to their customers. This will result in additional processing time for agency clientele. This training will cost approximately \$25,000 to develop materials and business processes for these front-line customer service staff.

Local election officials will have to enter the new registrants in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). Local election officials will have to track the origin of all voter registration forms including the number of declinations to comply with the NVRA. Local election officials, including poll workers, will require extensive training on the new requirements. This will require modifications to existing training materials and an extensive effort to provide the information and training following the November 2008 election and before the February 2009 spring primary when the law takes effect.

This training will cost approximately \$25,000 to develop materials that can be distributed to local election officials. These materials will include new business processes for handling voter registration applications. It will include face-to-face training opportunities and interactive training options to ensure a wide distribution of the training materials.

The legislation will require significant changes in the SVRS. The application developer will have to modify the current application to provide for NVRA compliant procedures and reflect the changes in the registration deadlines. These changes could run as high as \$100,000 in change orders for the application vendor. All changes will have to be fully tested by state staff. This requires a 6 week diversion of staff to test the application end-to-end with the new changes.

The legislation will also activate the provisional ballot requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). This will require additional training for poll workers and local election officials. While the distribution of information materials and interactive training opportunities can be shared with the materials related to the voter registration changes, the development cost will require an additional \$20,000 for staff time and review by local election officials.

Local election officials may realize some savings from the reduction in the use of special registration deputies at the polling place on Election Day. For the November general election most polling places will still require a special registration deputy to process name and address changes. Local election officials will save data entry time following the election, but will have to add data entry resources to process NVRA related applications and last minute get out the vote GOTV registration drives.

The state agency responsible for elections will save money on the mailing of confirmation post cards to Election Day registrants. The state agency may also be able process all NVRA related applications with additional staff. This would shift some of these costs from local election officials to the state. This would require at least 3 full time equivalent (FTE) staff positions plus additional LTE support during the period immediately preceding the election to account for increased processing for NVRA related applications and last minute GOTV registration drives. FTE staff costs would be approximately \$90,000 in salary, \$36,000 in fringe, \$15,000 in support costs and \$12,000 in one time set up costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The long range fiscal implications cannot be determined until after state agencies and local election officials have gone through a complete election cycle.