

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 09-0696/3 **Introduction Number** SB-240

Description

Restoring the right to vote to certain persons barred from voting as a result of a felony conviction and changing the information required on voter registration forms

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 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory 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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9/18/2009

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
GAB 9/18/2009

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Description Restoring the right to vote to certain persons barred from voting as a result of a felony conviction and changing the information required on voter registration forms		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Fund Sources Affected
FED (2002 Help America Vote Act: HAVA Section 251 Funds)

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate:

The proposed legislation would disqualify a person from voting when that person is convicted of a felony but only while that person is physically incarcerated for that offense. In addition, a person convicted of a disqualifying offense who is sentenced to probation retains the right to vote unless he or she is confined as a condition of probation. If a person who committed a disqualifying offense is returned to prison, jail or a house of correction after the revocation of extended supervision, or parole or is sent to prison after the revocation of probation, the person loses the right to vote until he or she is released.

The legislation eliminates the requirement that an applicant for voter registration provide any information relating to a whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony but retains the requirement that an applicant affirm that he or she is not disqualified on any ground from voting.

The legislation requires the Department of Corrections to provide the Government Accountability Board with a list containing the name and address of each living person who is ineligible to vote because he or she is incarcerated while serving a sentence for a felony. The list will also contain the date on which the department expects him or her to be eligible to vote.

The Government Accountability Board would continue to be required to provide lists to municipal clerks for use in their office and at their polling places names of persons who appear on the list provided by the Department of Corrections as ineligible to vote. Wis. Stat. Secs.6.29(2)(am), 6.55(2)(cs).

This bill also requires the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Government Accountability Board, and the Director of State Courts to include in their ongoing training programs a discussion of changes in law produced by this bill and offer training to judges, attorneys, election officials, employees of DOC, and the public.

Decreased Cost to the State:

A savings of \$14,000.00 per election by eliminating the need for printing and distribution of the lists of felons on probation, parole or extended supervision. The current list provided by the G.A.B. under Wis. Stat. Secs.6.29(2)(am), 6.55(2)(cs) to municipal clerks contains only the names of ineligible felons who are on probation, parole or extended supervision. The savings cited assumes that the G.A.B. will no longer send list to the clerks. The individuals on the current lists would no longer be considered ineligible. This is not part of the current legislation, so the savings will not be realized unless this requirement is removed.

Increased Cost to the State:

The proposed legislation requires the G.A.B. to endeavor to provide training on the changes to voting rights at least 60 days before the first election that follows the effective date of the legislation. In addition the G.A.B. 131, Voter Registration Form would need to be revised.

A one time cost of \$1100.00 would be incurred for G.A.B. staff to revise the G.A.B. 131 form, develop training materials, update manuals and post materials to the G.A.B. website (approximately 40 hours of work). A one time cost of \$400.00 would be incurred for four Wisline training sessions for Municipal Clerks and Chief Inspectors at approximately \$100.00 each. Other future costs would incorporated into the current Municipal Clerk, Election Inspector, and Special Registration Deputy training provided by the G.A.B. It would

be difficult to calculate what the specific costs would be.

Increased Cost to Local Government:

Municipal and County clerks would be required to provide obtain or supply sufficient forms to meet voter registration needs. The City of Milwaukee estimates a cost of \$2000 to print updated G.A.B. 131 forms. Other county and municipal clerks projected lower costs to obtain and supply updated forms.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None.