

Fiscal Estimate - 2015 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 15-3547/1	Introduction Number SB-294
-----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Description
 Reorganizing the Government Accountability Board, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, and making appropriations

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input 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	

Towns Village Cities
 Counties Others 0
 School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<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	

Agency/Prepared By GAB/ Kevin Kennedy (608) 266-8005	Authorized Signature Kevin Kennedy (608) 266-8005	Date 10/12/2015
--	---	---------------------------

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

GAB 10/12/2015

LRB Number	15-3547/1	Introduction Number	SB-294	Estimate Type	Original
Description Reorganizing the Government Accountability Board, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, and making appropriations					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation divides the current Government Accountability Board, an independent executive branch agency, into two separate state agencies, an Elections Commission and an Ethics Commission. The new Commissions begin operations on June 30, 2016.

New Commission Members may be appointed and begin work before the June 30 effective date. The new Commissioners are charged with hiring an administrator for the respective Commissions. Commissioners and administrators are subject to Senate confirmation, but Commissioners may begin serving before confirmation.

All personnel and positions, with the exception of the current agency head (Legal Counsel), along with all assets and liabilities of the G.A.B. are transferred to the new Commissions effective June 30, 2016. The current Director of the Government Accountability Board (Legal Counsel) is required to work with the Secretary of the Department of Administration to develop a transition plan.

The costs associated with conducting Commission meetings will double current costs for conducting G.A.B. meetings since there will be two 6-member Commissions replacing one 6-member Board. In addition, the Commissions will incur meeting costs between the time Commissioners are selected and June 30, 2016 while the G.A.B. is still operating.

Current G.A.B. meeting costs include \$33,000 in per diem expenses and \$10,000 in travel, printing and other costs for 6 in-person meetings and 2 teleconference meetings for FY 16. In FY 17 these costs increase to \$35,000 in per diem costs and \$12,000 in meeting costs. This reflects the fact the Elections Commission Chair will be required to attend several meetings to sign the official canvass of state and federal election results for 4 scheduled elections along with any special election certifications.

This means the Elections Commission will incur at least \$43,000 for per diems and meeting costs in FY 16 and \$47,000 in meeting costs in FY 17. The Ethics Commission will incur a similar amount, but the current budget for the G.A.B. is \$43,000 in FY 16 and \$47,000 in FY 17. This leaves a \$123,000 shortfall in the budget just for per diems and meeting expenses.

In addition the Department of Administration will incur significant transition related costs associated with the allocation and transfer of staff, assets and liabilities to the new Commissions. Notably, the current IT infrastructure including websites will have to be archived and divided between the new agencies. Since existing data has been co-mingled on agency servers, both new agencies will need access to existing data and documents stored on the agency servers and website.

This will require identification of data and documents needed for duplication and access as well as the development of separate IT infrastructures including new websites. Much of the current website information will need to be accessed by both Commissions. This work will fall to the Department of Administration since the current agency does not have the requisite IT personnel to undertake this transformation.

The Department of Administration will also have to assume a greater role in budget, fiscal management, procurement and personnel since that activity had been concentrated in a handful of current staff, only one of whom is currently still working for the G.A.B.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The primary long terms costs will be ongoing per diem and meeting expenses for two Commissions, duplicative budget, finance, personnel and IT support functions along with increased costs for both agencies to communicate about current shared functions. This final element is also applicable to members of the public and agency customers, including county and municipal clerks, who will now have to consult with two separate state agencies for critical information about campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying information related to state government, state elected officers and state public officials.