

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
ELEC 2/18/2020

LRB Number 19-4290/1	Introduction Number AB-0477	Estimate Type Original
Description restoring the right to vote to certain persons barred from voting as a result of a felony conviction, changing the information required on voter registration forms, and changing voting procedure for certain persons who are convicted of felonies		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would allow voters convicted of a disqualifying offense to be eligible for restoration of their voting rights once they are released from incarceration. Currently, state law does not allow citizens convicted of a felony offense to register and vote while serving any portion of that sentence, including probation, parole and extended supervision. The bill requires changes to the voter registration form and discontinues the requirement for the Department of Corrections to provide the list of convicted felons to election officials. The total estimated cost for changes associated with this bill is at least \$2,600.00.

WEC staff estimate that it will take 20 staff hours to update training materials and the voter registration form regarding this change for a cost of \$600.00 (20 hours x \$30.00/hr).

Staff also estimate 20 hours of development time for updates to the statewide voter registration system to implement this change (20 hours x \$100.00/hr), plus an additional 10 hours of system testing (10 hours x \$30.00/hr) for a cost of \$2,300.

The bill discontinues the requirement for Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide the list of convicted felons to election officials. Staff review of this bill concludes that election officials would still need the list of incarcerated citizens in order to conduct proper list maintenance of those individuals and it is unclear of the removal of the requirement for DOC to share data with the WEC would result in any costs to acquire the smaller list of ineligible voters from DOC.

Lastly, this change could result in some costs savings for WEC as the required post-election felon audit would not involve as many potential matches and should require less staff time to investigate and resolve potential issues.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications