

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 21-2240/1	Introduction Number AB-0173
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Description
 : private resources used for election administration, appointment of election officials, and providing a penalty

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<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	

Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By ELEC/ Richard Rydecki (608) 261-2015	Authorized Signature Meagan Wolfe (608) 266-8175	Date 3/31/2021
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELEC 3/31/2021

LRB Number	21-2240/1	Introduction Number	AB-0173	Estimate Type	Original
Description : private resources used for election administration, appointment of election officials, and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposed legislation prohibits officials and agents of county, city, village or towns from applying for or accepting any donation or grant of moneys, equipment, materials or personnel from an individual or nongovernmental entity for purposes of election administration, except as expressly authorized under the statutes relating to elections. If the Elections Commission accepts a donation or grant of moneys from an individual or nongovernmental entity for purposes of election administration, the Elections Commission may not expend those moneys, except as follows: 1. The commission must distribute the moneys to each municipality in Wisconsin on a per capita basis, subject to an exception for distributions that would result in any municipality receiving less than \$25. 2. The commission may expend the moneys only as approved by the Joint Committee on Finance. The proposed legislation makes it a Class I felony if a municipality accepts a grant in contravention of this statute or the grant funds are not distributed according to the procedure outlined in statute.

The proposed legislation requires tabulators employed by a municipality to be a resident of the State of Wisconsin and sign an oath prior to the election at which they work. The proposed legislation makes it Class I felony to assist in counting or tabulating votes at an election unless the person is a resident of the state, signs an oath and is trained to the extent provided by law. Employees from certain groups or organizations are also prohibited from being appointed as an election official.

WEC Administration of Statewide SubGrant Program:

In preparation of the fiscal estimate, WEC staff reviewed the steps that would be required from the perspective of administering a grant to all 1850 cities, villages and towns across the state, as the legislation would require in most cases a distribution of funds to all municipalities on a per capita basis (if minimum distribution would be greater than \$25). Administering a grant program involves much more than just issuing a check based on an approved per capita basis and each grant (purpose, allowable uses, due dates, reporting requirements) requires appropriate document creation, preparation and presentation to the Joint Committee on Finance, legal review of agreements and certifications, training on how to spend the allocated funds and file reports, internal accounting/financial transactions including cutting checks and auditing expenditures, records management and needed follow-up with subgrant recipients through the process. Based on the level of work anticipated to administer a statewide subgrant program, the fiscal estimate outlines human resources that would need to be allocated to the Elections Commission staff, including adding a 1.0 FTE (Grant Specialist) and approximately 925 hours of work for a Financial Specialist (30 minutes of time per 1850 subgrant recipients), per subgrant program. The fiscal estimate assumes a single statewide subgrant program with distribution greater than \$25 per municipality. Additional or multiple subgrant programs being administered concurrently would certainly increase the fiscal impact on the Elections Commission.

Grant Specialist (Salary plus Fringe): $\$25.00$ (Hourly Salary) + $\$9.25$ (Hourly Fringe) = $\$34.25$ (Annual Salary with Fringe = $\$71,240$)

Financial Specialist (Salary plus Fringe): $\$16.71$ (Hourly Salary) + $\$6.18$ (Hourly Fringe) = $\$22.89$ (925 Hours X $\$22.89$ = $\$21,173$)

Total WEC Administrative Costs for SubGrant Program: $\$92,413$

Changes to Tabulator Qualifications, Prohibition of Certain Employees Serving as Election Officials, New Penalties:

The remaining elements of the proposed legislation have very minimal, if any, fiscal impact. The largest impact would be updating existing materials that outline election official qualifications, including information about tabulators. Such changes would be part of normal updates to Elections Commission manuals or communications as well as some changes at the local level to applications that list qualifications to be an election official in a particular municipality, which will vary. Similarly, updates to any materials that discuss

practices that would now constitute a violation and the penalties associated with a violation would be part of normal updates and would therefore have very minimal, if any fiscal impact.

Minimal to no fiscal impact for changes to tabulator qualifications, prohibition of certain employees serving as election officials, new penalties.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications