

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 21-5269/1	Introduction Number SB-935	
Description certain kinds of election fraud, private resources and contracts for election administration, who may perform tasks related to election administration, defects on absentee ballot certificates, returning absentee ballots to the office of the municipal clerk, appointment of election officials, allowing an employee of a residential care facility or qualified retirement home to serve as a personal care voting assistant during a public health emergency or an incident of infectious disease, and providing a penalty		
Fiscal Effect State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <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 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
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		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELEC 2/21/2022

LRB Number	21-5269/1	Introduction Number	SB-935	Estimate Type	Original
Description certain kinds of election fraud, private resources and contracts for election administration, who may perform tasks related to election administration, defects on absentee ballot certificates, returning absentee ballots to the office of the municipal clerk, appointment of election officials, allowing an employee of a residential care facility or qualified retirement home to serve as a personal care voting assistant during a public health emergency or an incident of infectious disease, and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill contains numerous changes and additions to election law, several of which contain additional costs for state and local election officials and some which do not. The provisions that contain a fiscal component are outlined as part of this estimate, while ones that are not discussed should be assumed to either carry no fiscal impact or their costs can be absorbed into the existing WEC and local election official budget and functions.

Absentee Certificate Envelope

In preparation of this fiscal estimate, WEC staff reviewed costs associated with the development of a new absentee envelope, with distinct fields for each required item. Updating and redesigning forms fall within the normal scope of staff duties and finalizing an updated version would require approximately 60 staff hours. As previously stated, these 60 hours would be considered routine staff activity and would not require additional project time to be allocated.

A larger fiscal impact would fall upon the municipalities. The proposed legislation would require that existing stock of the certificate envelope be replaced with the updated version, which would incur significant printing costs.

The cost to print new certificate envelopes is variable, as municipalities are generally unable to print or prepare absentee envelopes in their own offices and will typically contract through a printing vendor to obtain new stock. An additional consideration is that the absentee voting process requires two envelopes, a larger transmission envelope that the clerk sends to the voter with all the requisite materials to vote and a smaller return envelope that the voter uses to return their ballot. The proposed legislation would not affect the transmission envelope and municipalities would be able to use their existing stock and reorder as normal. The proposed legislation would only affect the return envelope. Existing stock could not be altered to reflect the required changes on the envelope so municipalities would have to replace it with new compliant envelopes. While staff were able to identify the cost to print new envelopes, the applicability of this figure toward estimating the financial impact at the municipal level is less clear. Any required changes to the current version of the envelope that would require the replacement of existing stock would obviously incur costs which would vary based on the amount of envelope stock each municipality needed to replace. The estimated printing cost for replacement envelopes would be \$95.00 per 1,000 pieces.

Currently on the voter portal, MyVote, there already exists the means to provide information to an absentee voter that their ballot is to be rejected through the use of the Track My Ballot function. It changes the color of the Returned box to orange and suggests the voter contact the clerk with any questions they have. If it was determined that the exact cause/deficiency needed to be listed, this would require development time to add that feature. That time would fall into the normal scope of development costs for WEC.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications