

Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 23-4575/1	Introduction Number SB-0622
------------------------------------	---

Description
 facilitating voter registration for those who have their voting rights restored

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
<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	Authorized Signature	Date
DOC/ Michael Slana (608) 240-5414	Anna Neal (608) 228-1331	11/28/2023

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 11/28/2023

LRB Number	23-4575/1	Introduction Number	SB-0622	Estimate Type	Original
Description facilitating voter registration for those who have their voting rights restored					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the Department of Corrections (DOC) or a jailer of a county jail or house of correction is required to provide written notification to a person convicted of a felony when that person's right to vote is restored. This bill would require DOC or the jailer to provide various additional pieces of information and forms as outlined in the bill, as well as to provide the person assistance in completing the voter registration form (unless they decline that assistance in writing).

DOC estimates that there could be a significant staff time impact from the bill's requirement that DOC staff provide discharging clients assistance with completing their voter registration form, unless they decline in writing. This task would be added to DOC's current policies outlining Probation and Parole Agents' responsibilities for discharging clients, and would require training sessions for current and future Probation and Parole Agents. Depending on the workload impact of carrying out this additional requirement, DOC may require additional Probation and Parole Agent positions to ensure that existing responsibilities and this additional requirement are carried out for discharging clients in the timely manner.

With respect to local governments, currently the counties vary with regard to whether and to what extent their local detention facilities already provide some of this information and assistance, and thus the impact of this bill's requirements would vary by location. Overall, DOC does not anticipate this bill would have a substantial fiscal impact on local governments, though because it would have some degree of an operational impact in at least some locations, the precise fiscal effect is unclear.

Additionally, under this bill, DOC would be required to transmit to the Election Commission, on a continuous basis, a list containing the name of each living person who was convicted of a felony whose civil rights have been restored (i.e. a person who has completed their full term of supervision by DOC), together with their current residential address. As DOC does not currently track former clients or persons in our care (PIOCs) after they have been fully discharged from DOC supervision, this provision of the bill would require DOC to begin tracking the residential address of such persons throughout the rest of their lives.

It is unclear exactly how many individuals this provision would apply to. Between 2000 and 2022, 161,378 individuals were successfully released from DOC supervision (excluding cases where an individual passed away before completing their term of supervision, and excluding cases where a person went back to prison before the end of supervision). Note that this is a count of individuals, rather than releases, and thus a person with multiple discharges is only counted once. This count both under- and over-estimates the number of individuals DOC would need to track under this bill: on the one hand, some number of individuals who discharged between 2000 and 2022 have passed away, while on the other hand, some number of living individuals were last discharged before 2000 or were first discharged in 2023 (thus not counted in this dataset), and others will discharge for the first time in the future.

DOC is unable to estimate precisely how much staff would be required to comply with this provision of the bill, and thus precisely how much it would increase costs for the agency. It is unknown to what extent the tracking of individuals post-release could be automated, and how much staff time would still be required. If hypothetically only 5 minutes of staff time were required on average per individual per year to periodically check on the status of 161,378 individuals, the workload would equal to approximately 6.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. If instead 5 minutes of staff time were required on average per individual per month to comply with the bill's requirement that DOC transmit data to the Election Commission on a "continuous basis", roughly 77.5 FTE positions would be required. Note that the staff time required to verify a former client's current address would be significantly greater in certain cases, such as for former clients who are experiencing housing insecurities, are currently homeless, or otherwise not easily found, or if a former client is refusing compliance. If due to these and other complications it will take on an average significantly more than 5 minutes of staff time to verify each former client's current address, as seems likely, the estimated total staffing required would correspondingly increase. A single 1.00 FTE Office Operations Associate position would have an estimated annual recurring cost of \$69,100, and an estimated one-time cost of \$12,100.

Setting up this new data exchange with the Election Commission would have additional IT staffing costs. This would include identifying the source system to use for the exchange, developing a framework for data integration with the Election Commission's system, collaborating with the Election Commission's IT staff to ensure the transmitted data is correctly identified and differentiated from current data exchanges, and testing. DOC estimates that these and related tasks would total approximately 320 hours, at a one-time IT contractor cost of roughly \$30,700. DOC would additionally need to devote staffing resources to provide ongoing support for this data exchange with the Election Commission.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications