

Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number 25-3290/1	Introduction Number AB-0312
Description hours for voting by absentee ballot in person at the office of the municipal clerk or an alternate site	
Fiscal Effect State: <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</div><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs</div></div> Local: <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div style="width: 33%;"><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div></div></div><div style="width: 33%;">5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Cities</div></div></div></div>	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELEC 6/23/2025

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would create a significant fiscal challenge for Wisconsin's smallest municipalities, which make up nearly half of all election jurisdictions. While the bill would likely have little or no impact on larger cities its impact would be inversely proportional to the size of the municipality. That is, the smallest jurisdictions would see the greatest fiscal impact as a percentage of their budget. Large cities with tens of thousands of registered voters and robust full-time staff can easily accommodate the requirements of the bill. Many of the smallest towns, with only a few hundred registered voters, do not have any full-time staff, and must also find employees from a smaller labor pool.

Because many town clerks are part-time employees, they often have full-time jobs elsewhere and may lack the flexibility to easily alter their work schedules. Thus, without fiscal support, some clerks would be put in the difficult position of either having to significantly alter their own work schedules or find funds to support the hiring of additional temporary staff. In some instances, perhaps both.

In-person absentee voting (IPAV) is absentee voting. Clerks must receive and process an absentee ballot application, issue a complete absentee ballot packet, and process the returned ballot. Voters must correctly complete absentee certificate envelopes and seal their ballot inside. The sealed ballots are then stored for tabulation on election day. Relative to election day voting, clerks and voters must perform more work for each ballot, and voters do not have an opportunity to correct errors found during tabulation.

The additional costs created by 20 hours of IPAV are not limited to 20 hours of labor. Supporting IPAV takes supplies, preparation, and training. Providing support for a multi-day effort would likely require a fair wage to entice and retain candidates. Operating costs for a facility would also be a factor for the smallest jurisdictions. Actual costs would vary by jurisdiction.

Because there are so many towns, each with their own unique considerations, the Wisconsin Elections Commission encourages legislators and other interested parties to contact the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities to learn more.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2025 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):	
II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:
	Increased Costs Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category	
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$0
(FTE Position Changes)	(0.0 FTE)
State Operations - Other Costs	0
Local Assistance	0
Aids to Individuals or Organizations	0
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$0
B. State Costs by Source of Funds	
GPR	0
FED	0
PRO/PRS	0
SEG/SEG-S	0
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	
	Increased Rev Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$0
GPR Earned	0
FED	0
PRO/PRS	0
SEG/SEG-S	0
TOTAL State Revenues	\$0
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT	
	State Local
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$0 \$Varies
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$0 \$0
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature
ELEC/ Robert Kehoe (608) 261-2019	Meagan Wolfe (608) 266-8175
Date	
6/23/2025	