

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5062-02
Bill No.: HCS for HJR 47
Subject: Constitutional Amendment; Elections; Secretary of State
Type: Original
Date: February 16, 2012

Bill Summary: This proposal changes the number of voter signatures that are required to place an initiative petition or a referendum on a ballot.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)		
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 6 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).
- Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Attorney General's Office** assumed any potential cost arising from this proposal could be absorbed with existing resources.

Officials from the **Office of the Governor** and **Department of Revenue** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Officials from the **City of St. Louis Board of Elections** and **Clay County Board of Elections** did not respond to our request for fiscal impact.

In response to a similar proposal from last year, officials from **Platte County** assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume unless a special election is called for the purpose, joint resolutions are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. If a special election is called to submit a joint resolution to a vote of the people, section 115.063.2 RSMo requires the state to pay the costs. Article III section 52(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the General Assembly to order a special election for measures referred to the people and Article XII section 2(b) authorizes the Governor to call a special election to submit constitutional amendments to a vote of the people.

The SOS is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2 (b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. The Secretary of State's office is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle with \$1.3 million historically appropriated in odd numbered fiscal years and \$100,000 appropriated in even numbered fiscal years to meet these requirements. The appropriation has historically been an estimated appropriation because the final cost is dependent upon the number of ballot measures approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2011, at the August and November elections, there were 6 statewide Constitutional Amendments or ballot propositions that cost \$1.02 million to publish (an average of \$170,000 per issue). Therefore, the Secretary of State's office assumes, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. However, because these requirements are mandatory, we reserve the right to request funding to meet the cost of our publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly change the amount or eliminate the estimated nature of our appropriation.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Oversight has reflected in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2013. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research, that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled general election is in November 2012 (FY 2013). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on that ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2013.

To estimate the expense the state would incur for reimbursing local political subdivisions for a special election, Oversight requested expense estimates from all election authorities for an election. Eighty-six out of the one hundred fifteen election authorities responded to Oversight's request. From these respondents; the total election expense that would have to be reimbursed by the state government is over \$7 million. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential cost borne by the state in FY 2013 of over \$7 million for reimbursement to the local political subdivisions. Oversight assumes the Governor could call for a special election to be held prior to November 2012 regarding this joint resolution; however, if a special election is not called, the subject will be voted on at the general election in November, 2012.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer Out</u> - reimbursement of local election authorities for election costs	\$0 or (More than <u>\$7,000,000</u>)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	\$0 or (More than <u>\$7,000,000</u>)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES			
<u>Transfer In</u> - cost reimbursement from the State for election	\$0 or More than \$7,000,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Expense</u> - cost for election	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment changes the number of voter signatures that are required to place an initiative petition or a referendum on a ballot. Currently, an initiative petition proposing an amendment to the Missouri Constitution must be signed by 8% of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the Congressional districts. The resolution changes the requirement to 5.25% of the legal voters in each Congressional district.

Currently, a referendum petition must be signed by 5% of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the Congressional districts. The resolution changes the requirement to 3.25% of the legal voters in each Congressional district.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

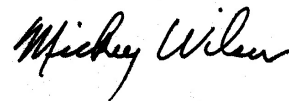
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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Department of Revenue
Attorney General's Office
Office of the Governor
Platte County

NOT RESPONDING

City of St. Louis Board of Elections
Clay County Board of Elections

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mickey Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
February 16, 2012