

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 6262-01  
Bill No.: HB 2047  
Subject: Elections; Military Affairs; Secretary of State  
Type: Original  
Date: April 30, 2012

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the laws relating to uniform military and overseas voters.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
General Revenue	(\$246,800)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>(\$246,800)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

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

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

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).

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

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume this proposal will require the SOS to establish an electronic system through which a "covered voter" can apply for, receive and submit voter registration materials, military-overseas ballots, federal postcard applications, military-overseas ballot applications and other approved electronic registration applications. The system must be capable of allowing a "covered voter" to register to vote and to vote by absentee ballot.

This bill would require the SOS to develop a electronic free-access system in coordination with the local election authorities of the state that would allow a "covered voter" to track their federal postcard application or other registration application, as well as the "cover voter's" military-overseas ballot status to confirm that each has been received and accepted. Additionally, this would allow for a covered voter to use an electronic signature and would require significant changes to MCVR to allow an electronic signature. This proposal will require the SOS to make significant computer programing changes to MCVR and other systems. The cost is estimated to be \$246,800 in FY 2013.

In response to similar legislation filed this year, SB 892, officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume the impact would be time and salaries to process the ballots. Each ballot received electronically would need to be converted to a paper ballot so it could be tallied. The number of ballots received will be unknown. Stated below is the amount it would cost to process 100 ballots. It would take two people, one republican and one democrat, ten minutes to process each ballot.

Cost to process 100 ballots = \$528.00

100 ballots x 10 minutes to process each ballot = 1,000 minutes / 60 = 16.5 hours

16.5 hours x \$16 per hour x 2 people = \$528.00

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$2,500. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with the core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process.

**Oversight** assumes that the local election authorities will be able to absorb the cost of this proposal with existing resources.

Officials at the following board of election commissions: Kansas City Board of Election Commission, St. Louis City Board of Election Commission, Clay County Board of Election Commission, Jackson County Board of Election Commission and the Platte County Board of Election Commission did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact.

Officials at the following counties: Andrew, Barry, Bates, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Cole, Cooper, DeKalb, Franklin, Greene, Hickory, Holt, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, New Madrid, Nodaway, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Platte, Pulaski, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Francois, Taney, Texas, Warren, Wayne and Webster did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost - Secretary of State creation of computer program</u>	<u>(\$246,800)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(\$246,800)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
 <u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	 FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	 FY 2014	 FY 2015
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

### FISCAL DESCRIPTION

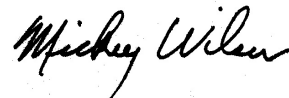
This bill establishes the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act which is consistent with and implements the state's responsibilities under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973, et. seq. These provisions apply to specified members of the armed forces and an overseas voter who are registered to vote in this state who are voting in general, special, presidential preference, or primary elections for federal offices or a general, special, or primary election for statewide, state legislative offices, or state ballot measures and any election allowing absentee voting.

The Secretary of State will be responsible for implementing the provisions of the bill. A covered voter is allowed to register to vote while overseas and to request ballots using state or federal applications. A covered voter may register to vote using the federal postcard application or its electronic equivalent and may simultaneously request a federal write-in absentee ballot or a military-overseas ballot. A covered voter will be allowed to communicate with election authorities using electronic mail, and ballots and applications will be provided by facsimile, electronic mail delivery, or Internet delivery if it is offered by the voter's jurisdiction. The criteria for validating ballots are specified in the bill. A voter's mistake or omission in the completion of a ballot under these provisions cannot invalidate a ballot.

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

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State  
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission



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Director  
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