

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0851-01
Bill No.: HB 345
Subject: Elections; Political Parties; Political Subdivisions
Type: Original
Date: February 18, 2015

Bill Summary: This proposal allows a voter to cast an advance ballot.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
General Revenue	\$0	(\$1,472,700)	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue*	\$0	(\$1,472,700)	\$0

*Ongoing costs of \$894,600 in every other fiscal year (FY 2019, FY 2021, etc.)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
 This fiscal note contains 11 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Local Government*	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Transfer In and Cost net to zero.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume this proposal requires election authorities to provide a satellite voting site for every fifty thousand registered voters in its jurisdiction for all federal elections, this includes both the primary and the general election. Based on the 2012 November Presidential election voter registration numbers, the proposal would require at least 41 additional satellite voting locations for a cost of \$447,300 per election.

Assumptions Include:

Each satellite voting location shall be staffed by at least one judge of each major political party paid \$9 per hour for the 140 hours that it will be open for voting – a total of \$103,320 per election.

Each central location, because advance voting is to be conducted in compliance with §115.407 to §115.445, RSMo, will also require at least one judge of each major political party paid \$9 per hour for the 140 additional hours it will be open for voting – a total of \$292,320 per election.

Election authorities would incur ongoing costs for maintenance of the satellite voting locations, including rent, utilities, and broadband internet service, in the approximate amount of \$1,260 per voting location for one month or a total of \$51,660 per federal election.

Thus, the fiscal impact of ongoing costs and of the staffing required for these voting locations would be \$447,300 per election. Two elections in August and November would result in costs of \$894,600 (\$447,300 x 2 elections).

Election authorities would also incur one-time costs in FY 2017 for the purchase of equipment necessary for the 2016 Federal Primary Election satellite locations, including accessible voting machines for disabled voters, laptop computers and printers.

Assumptions Include:

1 accessible voting machine per satellite=	\$5,000
2 laptop computers per satellite=	\$1,600
1 printer per satellite=	<u>\$7,500</u>
Total=	\$14,100

\$14,100 per satellite voting location multiplied by 41 voting locations= \$578,100 initial start up costs in FY 2017.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

For the purposes of this fiscal note, the Secretary of State's Office assumes that the provisions included in this proposal would require satellite voting sites for federal elections only, both the primary and the general.

In summary, the SOS assumes a cost to the General Revenue Fund of \$1,472,700 (\$894,000 + \$578,100) in FY 2017, and \$894,600 in every other fiscal year from there on.

Based on the usage of "an election" in §115.276.1, if these new advance voting requirements also extend to all municipal elections, staffing costs would total \$292,320 per municipal election.

Oversight notes that §115.276.1 requires voting at these satellite locations for federal elections only (the federal elections are the August and November elections).

Officials at the **Lincoln County Clerk's Office** assume the estimated additional cost of advanced voting would be as follows:

1) 4 election judges working during the advance voting period	\$ 8,000.00
2) Increased office staff overtime due to increased volume	\$ 2,000.00
3) Miscellaneous precinct supplies	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
Total=	\$10,400.00
4) Construction of a secure office space within the Courthouse to facilitate increased staff as well as increased voter volume (one time cost)	\$20,000.00
5) Start up election Equipment including but not limited to furniture, Workstation PC x 2, Precinct Tabulator x 2, VAT Marking Device, Ballot on Demand Systems to ensure ballot availability for voters (one time cost)	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
Total=	<u>\$60,000.00</u>
Total Cost of First Election=	\$70,400.00

Officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume this proposal creates a system to allow voters to cast advance ballots at central voting locations and satellite sites. The advance voting period will begin the third Wednesday prior to an election and shall be conducted during regular business hours and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Voting will conclude on the Wednesday before the election. The election authority shall consider factors including geographic location and demographics of the registered voters from the previous election to ensure nondiscrimination and provide adequate notice of the central locations and the satellite sites that are chosen.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

The Board of Election Commission feels that this proposal, if passed, will require the use of paper ballots at each satellite location. We have included the costs of purchasing equipment, printing and delivery of paper ballots. Our M100 ballot counting machines have a limitation of 10 precincts per machine. Since St. Louis County contains about 1,300 precincts, we will need around 130 counting machines at each location. This quantity of machines will increase the space required for a satellite location as well as daily rents. Requiring the use of paper ballots dramatically increases the cost as well as operational complexity to the early voting process.

SATELLITE SITE COSTS	# of Sites	Daily Site Rental	# of Elections	Total
Site Lease	6	\$400.00	3	\$216,000.00
Equipment (set-up, delivery, etc.)	6	\$2,500.00	3	\$45,000.00
Internet	6	\$165.00	3	\$2,970.00
Security	6	\$240.00	3	\$129,600.00
			TOTAL=	\$393,570.00

PAPER BALLOT COSTS	# of Sites	# of machines/ ballots per site	Cost	# of elections	Total
m100	6	130	\$3,880.00		\$3,026,400.00
m100 bases	6	130	\$700.00		\$546,000.00
PCMCIA Memory cards	6	130	\$12.00		\$9,360.00
Paper Printing	6	100000	\$0.26	3	\$468,000.00
Ballot Delivery Costs	6		\$600.00	3	\$10,800.00
Ballot Return Costs	6		\$450.00	3	\$8,100.00
		Total non-recurring paper costs=			\$3,581,760.00
		Total recurring paper costs=			\$486,900.00

ASSUMPTION (continued)

PART-TIME LABOR	Operating Days	# of Sites	# of workers per site	Labor per working per hour	# of Elections	Total
Deputies	30		4	\$16.03	3	\$46,166.40
Labor	30	6	2	\$16.03	3	\$138,499.20
Labor	30	6	12	\$15.00	3	\$777,600.00
Social Security at 7.65%					3	\$76,613.32
6 hour training costs				\$15.00	3	\$3,240.00
					Total=	\$1,039,118.92

Non-recurring Startup Costs	Cost	# of Sites	Quantity per Site	Total
Touch-screen Machines	\$4,000.00	6	20	\$480,000.00
Laptops	\$1,000.00	6	4	\$24,000.00
Printers	\$1,000.00	6	1	\$6,000.00
Tables, Chairs, etc.	\$400.00	6		\$2,400.00
		Total Non-Recurring Costs=		\$512,400.00

Total Costs for Year 1 = \$6,013,748.92
 Total Costs for Year 2 = \$639,862.97
 Total Costs for Year 3 = \$1,919,588.92

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** assume the costs of this proposal are as follows:

Office/Central Location Expenses:

4 Election Judges @ \$100/each/per day x 14 days of advance voting	\$5,600
4 Election Judges @ \$50/each/per day x 3 Saturdays of advance voting	\$ 600
2 Full Time Office Staff overtime	<u>\$ 800</u>
Subtotal for one election=	\$7,000

Satellite Location Expenses (Platte has over 60,000 registered voters):

8 Election Judges @ 100/each/day x 10 days	\$8,000
8 Election Judges @ \$50/each/day x 2 Saturdays	\$ 800
2 Full Time office staff overtime	\$ 700
Office rent for one month	\$7,000
(This amount could vary based on rents or our ability to partner with a municipality for space)	
Utilities for one month	\$ 450
Telephones	\$ 275
DSL for one month	<u>\$ 350</u>
Subtotal for one Satellite location for one election=	<u>\$17,575</u>

Total per Federal/State election= \$24,575

Onetime Expenses:

Workstation and Monitor x 2	\$1,600
Printer x 2	\$1,000
Office Furniture	<u>\$2,000</u>
Subtotal for Satellite onetime expenses=	\$4,600

Oversight notes this proposal states in §115.279.9 all costs associated with the implementation of advance voting as authorized by this section shall be reimbursed from the General Revenue of this state. Therefore, Oversight will show no fiscal impact to the local political subdivisions.

For purposes of this fiscal note, **Oversight** will show the fiscal impact estimates provided by SOS.

Oversight notes there are no federal elections in FY 2016 and FY 2018. The August and November federal elections will be in FY 2017.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

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.

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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2016 (6 Mo.)	FY 2017	FY 2018
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer Out</u> - Secretary of State - advance voting staffing & maintenance	\$0	(\$894,600)	\$0
<u>Transfer Out</u> - Secretary of State - equipment (one-time cost)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$578,100)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE*	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$1,472,700)</u>	<u>\$0</u>

*Ongoing costs of \$894,600 in every other fiscal year (FY 2019, FY 2021, etc.)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2016 (6 Mo.)	FY 2017	FY 2018
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FUNDS			
<u>Transfer In</u> - advance voting staffing & maintenance	\$0	\$894,600	\$0
<u>Transfer In</u> - equipment (one-time)	\$0	\$578,600	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - advance voting staffing & maintenance	\$0	(\$894,600)	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - equipment (one-time)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$578,600)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FUNDS	<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

Beginning January 1, 2016, this bill allows any registered voter to cast an advance ballot starting on the third Wednesday before any election. Any registered voter may vote by advance ballot at the central voting location designated by the election authority. Voting will be allowed during regular business hours on weekdays and on Saturdays until 12:00 p.m. until the close of regular business hours on the Wednesday before the election. Regular business hours must not begin earlier than 7:00 a.m. nor extend beyond 7:00 p.m.

For all federal elections and all other elections as the election authority designates, up to six satellite voting sites must be provided by the election authority with one satellite site established for every 50,000 registered voters in that jurisdiction. For other elections, the use of satellite sites is discretionary. An election authority must provide adequate public notice of the central voting location and on its website and by other methods as the election authority may select. The election authority must appoint at least one judge from each major political party to serve at each satellite site. A major political party cannot have a majority of the judges at a satellite site and an established party cannot have a great number of judges at any satellite than any major political

ASSUMPTION (continued)

party.

The election judge cannot allow any person who has voted an advance ballot in the election to vote at the polls on election day. If it is determined that a voter submitted an advance ballot and voted at the polls, he or she, having voted more than once, is guilty of a class one election offense.

All costs associated with the implementation of advance voting as authorized by these provisions must be reimbursed from the state's general revenue.

Any person who knowingly discloses specified confidential information will be guilty of a class four election offense. A person voting by advance ballot must receive the same confidentially protections as a person voting by absentee ballot.

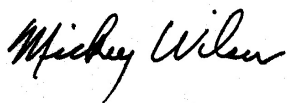
The bill increases, from within 25 to within 100 feet of the building's outer door closest to the polling place, the prohibition of exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature, posting signs, or placing vehicles bearing signs regarding any candidate or ballot question on an election day.

Certain provisions requiring the election authority to record information regarding advance and absentee ballots in St. Louis City and Kansas City and the counties of Jackson and St. Louis are repealed requiring all election authorities to record the information.

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
Lincoln County Clerk's Office
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission
Platte County Board of Election Commission



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