

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 3986-01  
Bill No.: SB 859  
Subject: Secretary of State: Advance Voting  
Type: Original  
Date: February 9, 2006

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**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>
<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 6 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</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 LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$306,042 to Unknown)</b>	<b>(\$710,993 to Unknown)</b>

**FISCAL ANALYSIS**

**ASSUMPTION**

Officials of the **Office of Secretary of State** assume no fiscal impact to their office.

Officials of the **Office of Secretary of State - Elections Division** stated that cost estimates were established for the current process with assumptions of \$25,000 for an average salary for local election authorities, 7.5% absentee voting currently (based on 2004 General Election data), half an hour to process mail-in ballots, and 15 minutes to process walk-in ballots. This leads to a cost of \$6.01 per mail-in absentee ballot and \$3.01 walk-in absentee ballot.

Because the bill does not eliminate the notary requirement for absentee voting there should not be an increase in the number of voters using absentee voting or the processing time. The assumption is that the percentage of voters voting early would increase from 7.5% to 13.9%. The same estimates for the increase in the number of voters walking in to vote is used in this calculation as was used in fiscal note no.1829-01n, which is Senate Bill 472, from the 2005 legislative session. It is assumed that the processing time for walk-in ballots using the advance voting process would be reduced in half from 15 minutes to 7.5 minutes because much of the work of election officials would be eliminated for walk-in voting. The result of these assumptions is that the cost of processing

ASSUMPTION (continued)

mail-in absentee ballots is expected to remain at \$6.01 per ballot and the cost of processing walk-in advance voters is \$1.50 per ballot. However, the total cost of processing walk-in ballots will increase because the volume will increase.

The legislation allows the local election authorities to designate other elections at which they use advance voting. However, since use of advance voting at non-federal elections is not mandated the costs to the local election authority for those elections would be discretionary.

The bill provides for 40 satellite sites for advance voting for 15 election authorities based on the 50,000 registered voter break point - St. Louis City (5), St. Louis County (6), Kansas City (4), Jackson County (4) and the counties of Cole (1), Buchanan (1), Franklin (1), Cass (1), Platte (1), Jasper (1), Boone (2), Clay (2), Jefferson (3), Greene (4), St. Charles (4). The fiscal note assumes that they will be staffed by four election judges paid \$9 per hour for the 107 hours that they will be open for advance voting - a total of \$154,080 per election. In addition, it is assumed that there would be a one-time equipment cost of \$2,500 to establish the satellite sites - a total of \$100,000 (40 sites times \$2,500 per site).

The effective date of the provisions is January 2008 so increased costs would occur to the state as follows:

FY 2008 - Presidential primary

FY 2009 - August 2008 primary election and November 2008 general election

Officials estimate costs to local election authorities, on a statewide basis, at \$306,042 in FY 2008; and \$710,993 in FY 2009.

Officials of the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume this proposal provides for advanced voting at the election office, and six additional sites for a two-week period beginning three weeks before all federal elections and ending the Wednesday before the election.

Officials assume this proposal would have costs to their election board. Officials estimate that to provide 6 additional satellite voting locations to meet the requirements of this proposal are as follows:

ASSUMPTION (continued)

1. 12 additional full-time employees (2 per site)....annual cost .....	\$398,675
2. 24 temporary employees, (4 per site) general elections only.....	30,720
3. Satellite Rental (estimate \$150 per day per 6 sitesx10days x 2 elections.....	18,000
4. Equipment..(non recurring).....	120,240
5. Software License .....	3,816
 TOTAL COST...(first year) .....	<u>\$571,145</u>

Officials of the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** assumes the costs could be as much as \$250,000,

Officials of the **Jackson County Board of Election Commission** assume they would have fiscal impact. Officials estimate fiscal impact for a county-wide election as follows:

1. Rent at 6 locations for 2 weeks.....	\$ 6,000
2. 14 Part-time staff and 28 Election Clerks.....	34,000
3. Election Equipment .....	59,000
4. 18 voting booths .(one-time expense).....	3,600
5. Advanced Voting supplies .....	6,000
Total First Year Costs.....	\$108,600

Officials of the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** estimate the possibility of 5 elections annually, with exception in years when Kansas City conducts their primary and general elections, then 6 elections would be possible. Officials estimate in FY 2008 costs of \$45,235; and in FY 2009 costs of \$44,385, both figures are based on 5 elections.

**Oversight** will show election costs to local government in FY 2008 using the Secretary of State figure of \$306,042 to Unknown; and costs in FY 2009 of \$710,993 to Unknown. Because costs are state-wide estimates the costs will be ranged.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2007 (10 Mo.)	FY 2008	FY 2009
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2007 (10 Mo.)	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT- ELECTION AUTHORITIES</b>			
<b>Costs</b> to Local Government for advanced voting election costs	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$306,042 to Unknown)</u>	<u>(\$710,993 to Unknown)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$306,042 to Unknown)</u>	<u>(\$710,993 to Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

DESCRIPTION

This act 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 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and until 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays. 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.

Election authorities shall create lists of names and addresses of each voter casting an advance ballot and such lists shall be confidential until 8:00 a.m. on the Friday before the election. Upon expiration of the confidential period, authorized individuals are entitled to view the lists and the election authority may make copies of the lists available to those individuals for a fee. A violation of confidentiality is a class four election offense.

This act also extends the distance restriction for exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature and signage, from twenty-five to one hundred feet from the polling place.

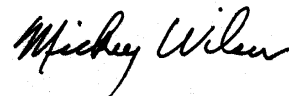
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of Secretary of State  
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission  
Jackson County Board of Election Commission  
Platte County Board of Election Commission  
Kansas City Board of Election Commission

NOT RESPONDING

Oversight sent response requests to County Clerks of Boone, Callaway, Cass, Greene, Clay, Johnson, Marion, Franklin and many others. No response has been received.



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
February 9, 2006