

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0324-01
Bill No.: SB 95
Subject: Elections
Type: Original
Date: March 18, 2009

Bill Summary: This proposal allows all registered voters to vote absentee for any or no reason.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
General Revenue	(\$541,901)	(\$3,034,473)	(\$1,734,467)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	(\$541,901)	(\$3,034,473)	(\$1,734,467)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 8 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
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 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume cost estimates were established for the current process with assumptions of \$13.50/hour for an average salary for local election authority staff, 10.5% absentee voting currently (based on 2008 General Election data), 13 minutes to process a mail-in ballot, and 8 minutes to process a walk-in ballot. This leads to a cost of \$2.93 per mail-in absentee ballot and \$1.84 per walk-in absentee ballot.

The assumption is that the percentage of voters voting absentee would increase from 10.5% to 30% for each election (based on the 2006 United States Election Assistance Commission survey).

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Total votes cast in November 2008 general election— 3,091,565

Number of absentee votes cast in November 2008 general election— 325,201 (10.5%)

Assume 30% of votes cast will be absentee if this bill is adopted, which translates to 927,456 absentee votes per election.

Number of new absentee voters per election if this bill is adopted: $927,456 - 325,201 = 602,255$

Percentage of total absentee votes that are by mail (62%) and walk-in (38%), based on numbers from St. Louis County in November 2008 and extrapolated statewide. New absentee of each type would be: Mail ballots- $602,255 \times .62 = 373,398$ Walk-in ballots- $602,255 \times .38 = 228,857$

Costs of new mail absentee votes- $373,398 \times \$2.93 = \$1,094,056$. Additional supplies required will be first class postage (.42 each way), envelope, paper and additional printer cartridge will be approximately \$1.00 per vote cast this method = \$373,398. Total cost of new mail absentee votes is \$1,467,454.

Costs of new walk-in absentees- $228,857 \times \$1.84 = \$421,096$

Total costs of new absentees (mail + walk-in) for each **November General** election beginning in 2010 would be **\$1,888,551**.

AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION

Total votes cast in August 2008 primary election— 794,985

Number of absentee votes cast in August 2008 primary election— 45,875 (5.77%)

Assume 30% of votes cast will be absentee if this bill is adopted (based on the 2006 United States EAC survey), which translates to 238,496 absentee votes per election.

Number of new absentee voters in per election if this bill is adopted: $238,496 - 45,875 = 192,621$

Percentage of total absentee votes that are by mail (62%) and walk-in (38%), based on numbers

ASSUMPTION (continued)

from St. Louis County in November 2008 and extrapolated statewide. New absentee of each type would be: Mail ballots- $192,621 \times .62 = 119,425$ Walk-in ballots- $192,621 \times .38 = 73,196$

Costs of new mail absentee votes- $119,425 \times \$2.93 = \$349,915$. Additional supplies required will be first class postage (.42 each way), envelope, paper and additional printer cartridge will be approximately \$1.00 per vote cast this method = \$119,425. Total cost of new mail absentee votes is \$469,340.

Costs of new walk-in absentees- $73,196 \times \$1.84 = \$134,680$

Total costs of new absentees (mail + walk-in) for each **August Primary** election beginning in 2010 would be \$604,020.

FEBRUARY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Total votes cast in February 2008 primary election- 1,435,850

Number of absentee votes cast in February 2008 primary election- 50,448 (4%)

Assume 30% of votes cast will be absentee if this bill is adopted (based on 2006 United States EAC survey), which translates to 430,755 absentee votes per election.

Number of new absentee voters in per election if this bill is adopted: $430,755 - 50,448 = 380,307$

Percentage of total absentee votes that are by mail (62%) and walk-in (38%), based on numbers from St. Louis County in November 2008 and extrapolated statewide. New absentee of each type would be: Mail ballots- $380,307 \times .62 = 235,790$ Walk-in ballots- $380,307 \times .38 = 144,517$

Costs of new mail absentee votes- $235,790 \times \$2.93 = \$690,865$. Additional supplies required will be first class postage (.42 each way), envelope, paper and additional printer cartridge will be approximately \$1.00 per vote cast this method = \$235,790. Total cost of new mail absentee votes is \$926,655.

Costs of new walk-in absentees- $144,517 \times \$1.84 = \$265,911$

Total costs of new absentees (mail + walk-in) for each **February Presidential Primary** election beginning in 2012 would be \$1,192,566.

APRIL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Total votes cast in April 2008 municipal election- 664,658 (based on a sampling of local election authorities' April municipal election returns and absentee ballots cast.)

Estimated number of absentee votes cast in April, 2008 municipal election- 26,586 (4%)

Assume 30% of votes cast will be absentee if this bill is adopted (based on 2006 United States EAC survey), which translates to 199,397 absentee votes per election.

Number of new absentee voters in per election if this bill is adopted: $199,397 - 26,586 = 172,811$

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Percentage of total absentee votes that are by mail (62%) and walk-in (38%), based on numbers from St. Louis County in November 2008 and extrapolated statewide. New absentee of each type would be: Mail ballots- $172,811 \times .62 = 107,143$ Walk-in ballots- $172,811 \times .38 = 65,668$

Costs of new mail absentee votes- $107,143 \times \$2.93 = \$313,929$. Additional supplies required will be first class postage (.42 each way), envelope, paper and additional printer cartridge will be approximately \$1.00 per vote cast this method = \$107,143. Total cost of new mail absentee votes is \$421,072.

Costs of new walk-in absentees- $65,668 \times \$1.84 = \$120,829$

Total costs of new absentees (mail + walk-in) for each **April municipal** election beginning in 2011 would be **\$541,901**.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** assume costs of \$224,850 for staff and voting supplies equipment in FY 2010.

Officials at the **Cooper County** assume that if this proposal had been in effect for the 2008 elections it would have cost \$184,637 for additional staff and voting supplies.

Officials at the **St. Charles County** assume a cost of between \$6,000 to \$12,000 depending on the election.

Officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Elections** assume the following costs:

2010 Labor for Mid-Term General Election = $\$10 \text{ per hr.} \times 8 \text{ hrs. per day} \times 42 \text{ days} \times 50 \text{ temps} = \$168,000$

2012 Labor for Presidential Primary = $\$10 \text{ per hr.} \times 8 \text{ hrs. per day} \times 42 \text{ days} \times 25 \text{ temps} = \$84,000$

Labor for Presidential Election = $\$10 \text{ per hr.} \times 8 \text{ hrs. per day} \times 42 \text{ days} \times 50 \text{ temps} = \$168,000$

Officials at the **Office of the Attorney General** assume this legislation would have no fiscal impact.

Officials at the **Taney County** assume a cost of \$3,000 for an off year election and \$9,000 for a presidential election year for additional envelopes, postage and staff..

Officials at the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** assume a cost between \$25,000 and \$45,000 per election.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials at the **Lawrence County** assume an increase in election expenses of \$5,320 per year with costs rising or doubling in presidential years.

Officials at the **Buchanan County** assume the estimated cost of implementation would be approximately \$1,000 per election. This would be \$2,000 per two year cycle, however cities and school districts would pay for this cost with their normal election costs.

Officials at the **Cole County** assume you could save money if you did not use the Absentee Envelopes but the optical scan machines in the clerk's office.

Officials at the **Clinton County** assume a savings on election day but they may need to hire staff prior to election.

Officials at the **Monroe County** assume that there is no fiscal impact from this proposal.

Oversight assumes that in FY 2010 there will be an April Municipal election. In Fiscal Year 2011 there will be the August 2010 primary and November 2010 general election with an April Municipal Election. In Fiscal Year 2012 there will be the February Presidential Primary Election and an April Municipal election.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2010 (10 Mo.)	FY 2011	FY 2012
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer Out</u> - Secretary of State additional ballot expenses reimbursed by state to local election authorities	<u>(\$541,901)</u>	<u>(\$3,034,473)</u>	<u>(\$1,734,467)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$541,901)</u>	<u>(\$3,034,473)</u>	<u>(\$1,734,467)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2010 (10 Mo.)	FY 2011	FY 2012
LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES FUNDS			
<u>Transfer In</u> - Local Election Authorities reimbursement of election expenses	\$541,901	\$3,034,473	\$1,734,467
<u>Transfer Out</u> - Local Election Authorities election expenses paid	<u>(\$541,901)</u>	<u>(\$3,034,473)</u>	<u>(\$1,734,467)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES 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.

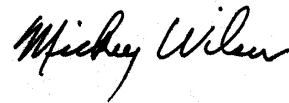
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, registered voters are allowed to vote absentee if they will be prevented from voting at the polls on election day due to certain circumstances. This act allows all registered voters to vote absentee without regard to intervening circumstances.

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 Attorney General
Taney County
Office of the Secretary of State
Buchanan County
Monroe County
Platte County Board of Election Commission
Kansas City Board of Election Commission
St. Louis County Board of Elections
Clinton County
Lawrence County
Cole County
Cooper County
St. Charles County



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Director
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