

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0630-06
Bill No.: HCS for SS for SCS for SB 116
Subject: Elections; Military Affairs; Secretary of State
Type: Original
Date: April 17, 2013

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the law relating to uniformed military and overseas voters.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
General Revenue	(\$246,800)	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	(\$246,800)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
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 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
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 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

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 proposal would require the SOS to develop an 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 "covered voter's" military-overseas ballot status to confirm that each has been received and accepted. This proposal 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 programming changes to MCVR and other systems which is estimated to cost \$246,800.

In response to a previous version, officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** assumed that an additional cost of \$4,741 per election would be incurred due to this proposal. The majority of costs would be personnel to handle the processing of the ballots.

In response to a previous version, officials at the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** assumed costs of \$5,000 per election which would include temporary help and printing expenses.

In response to a previous version, officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assumed this proposal would have an impact due to the time and salaries to convert each ballot received electronically to a paper ballot so it could be tallied. Ballots received electronically will vary per election. There were 928 electronically submitted ballots in November 2012. It takes two people, one republican and one democrat, ten minutes to process each ballot. Stated below is the cost to process the November 2012 electronically submitted ballots.

Cost to process 928 ballots = \$4,944.00 (928 ballots x 10 minutes to process each ballot = 9,280minutes/60 =154.5 hours; 154.5 x \$16 per hour x two people= \$4,944)

ASSUMPTION (continued)

In response to a previous version, officials at **Buchanan County** assumed an unknown fiscal impact.

Officials at the **Office of State Courts Administrator** assume there is no fiscal impact from this proposal.

Oversight assumes that the local election authorities will be able to absorb any fiscal impact from this proposal with existing resources.

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.

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

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

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2014 (10 Mo.)	FY 2015	FY 2016
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost - Secretary of State - creating a covered voter electronic system</u>	<u>(\$246,800)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$246,800)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2014 (10 Mo.)	FY 2015	FY 2016
	<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, the Secretary of State is charged with establishing procedures for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to request, receive, and send voter registration applications and request and receive absentee ballots by mail or electronically. This act repeals provisions related to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters and institutes the Uniformed Military Voters Act to apply to all federal elections, statewide and state legislative elections and local elections where absentee ballots are authorized.

The Secretary of State is required to establish an electronic transmission system through which a covered voter may apply and receive voter registration materials and military-overseas ballots.

The act allows covered voters to use a federal postcard application or the declaration accompanying a federal write-in absentee ballot to apply to register to vote. Such voters who are registered to vote in Missouri may apply for a military-overseas ballot and those who are not registered may use a federal postcard application to simultaneously register and apply for a military-overseas ballot.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Covered voters who are eligible to register and vote but who are not registered may vote for President, Vice President, and United States Senator and Representative by absentee ballot, federal write-in absentee ballot or at the person's polling place after submitting an affidavit that the person is qualified to vote.

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

Buchanan County
Kansas City Board of Election Commission
Office of the Secretary of State
Office of State Courts Administrator
Platte County Board of Election Commission
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission



Ross Strope
Acting Director
April 17, 2013