

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0630-06
Bill No.: Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed HCS for SS for SCS for SB 116
Subject: Elections; Military Affairs; Secretary of State
Type: Original
Date: May 28, 2013

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the law relating to uniformed military voters 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 a covered voter to use an electronic signature and would require significant changes to the Missouri Centralized Voter Registration system (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.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commissioners** assume 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.

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

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

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials at the following counties: Andrew, Audrain, Barry, Bates, Boone, Buchanan, 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	FY 2015	FY 2016
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GENERAL REVENUE

<u>Cost - Secretary of State - creating a covered voter electronic system</u>	<u>(\$246,800)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$246,800)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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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 and Overseas Voters Act to apply to all federal elections, statewide and state legislative elections or local elections where absentee ballots are authorized.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

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 uniformed services and overseas 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.

Covered voters may use a federal write-in absentee ballot to vote for all offices and ballot measures.

A "covered voter" is defined as a uniformed-services voter who is registered to vote in this state, has a voting residence in this state, and who otherwise satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements and includes overseas voters who are otherwise eligible to vote in Missouri.

Valid military-overseas ballots shall be counted if received before noon on the Friday after the election day.

No election authority or verification board shall certify election results before noon on the Friday after the election day and a valid military-overseas ballots shall be counted if received before that time.

The act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Office of State Courts Administrator
Platte County Board of Election Commissioners
St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners



Ross Strope
Acting Director
May 28, 2013