

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4618-01
Bill No.: SJR 23
Subject: Constitutional Amendments; Elections
Type: Original
Date: January 6, 2016

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the law relating to initiative petitions.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
General Revenue	\$0 or (Greater than \$7,100,00)		
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (Greater than \$7,100,00)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
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 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
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 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Local Government*	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Transfer Ins and Costs net to zero.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** anticipate a savings by raising the percentage of signatures needed for initiative petitions, however, it is difficult to determine a dollar amount. It is estimated to be a savings of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per even numbered election year.

Officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume this proposal would double the amount of time it would take to verify signatures on petitions. The increase to the St. Louis County Board of Election Commission would be approximately \$17,280 annually.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** each assume no fiscal impact from this proposal to their respective organizations.

Officials at **Callaway County, Mississippi County, and Buchanan County** each assume no fiscal impact from this proposal to their respective organizations.

Oversight notes that political subdivisions have to verify (or disqualify) more signatures on petitions, however, this proposal may result in fewer petitions.

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Joint Resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Joint Resolution to a vote of the people, §115.063.2, RSMo, requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$7.1 million based on the cost of the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary. This figure was determined through analyzing and totaling expense reports from the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary received from local election authorities.

The SOS is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. Funding for this item is adjusted

ASSUMPTION (continued)

each year depending upon the election cycle with \$1.3 million historically appropriated in odd numbered fiscal years and \$100,000 appropriated in even numbered fiscal years to meet these requirements. The appropriation has historically been an estimated appropriation because the final cost is dependent upon the number of ballot measures approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2013, at the August and November elections, there were 5 statewide Constitutional Amendments or ballot propositions that cost \$2.17 million to publish (an average of \$434,000 per issue). In FY 2015, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation and the SOS was appropriated \$1.19 million to publish the full text of the measures. Due to this reduced funding, the SOS reduced the scope of the publication of these measures. In FY 2015, at the August and November elections, there were 9 statewide Constitutional Amendments or ballot propositions that cost \$1.1 million to publish (an average of \$122,000 per issue). Despite the FY 2015 reduction, the SOS will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, we reserve the right to request funding to meet the cost of our publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

Oversight has reflected in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2017. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research, that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled statewide primary election is in August 2016 and the next scheduled general election is in November 2016 (FY 2017). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on that ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2017.

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

Officials at the following counties: Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barry, Bollinger, Boone, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Christian, Clay, Cole, Cooper, DeKalb, Dent, Franklin, Greene, Holt, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Laclede, Lawrence, Lincoln, Maries, Marion, McDonald, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, New Madrid, Nodaway, Ozark, Perry, Pettis, Phelps, Platte, Pulaski, Scott, Shelby, 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 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
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GENERAL REVENUE

<u>Transfer Out</u> - Secretary of State - reimbursement of local election authority costs if a special election is called by the Governor	\$0 or (Greater than \$7,100,00)	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>\$0 or (Greater than \$7,100,00)</u>	\$0	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
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LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES FUND

<u>Transfer In</u> - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election	\$0 or Greater than \$7,100,00	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - Local Election Authorities - cost of a special election	\$0 or (Greater than \$7,100,00)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</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.

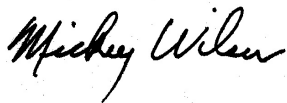
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, in order to be submitted to the voters of Missouri for consideration, initiative petitions proposing amendments to the Constitution must be signed by eight percent of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the congressional districts in the state. This proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, changes the threshold to fifteen percent of legal voters.

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
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission
Kansas City Board of Election Commission
Platte County Board of Election Commission
Mississippi County
Buchanan County
Callaway County



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Director
January 6, 2016

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January 6, 2016