

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6558-01
Bill No.: SB 1068
Subject: Elections; Federal - State Relations
Type: Original
Date: March 4, 2016

Bill Summary: This proposal requires election authorities to make available at least one electronic voting machine per polling location for blind or visually impaired voters at an election in order to comply with federal law.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
General Revenue	(Greater than \$100,000)	(Greater than \$100,000)	(Greater than \$100,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(Greater than \$100,000)	(Greater than \$100,000)	(Greater than \$100,000)

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

*Transfers In and Costs net to zero.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Oversight was unable to receive some of the agency responses in a timely manner due to the short fiscal note request time. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information that we have or on prior year information regarding a similar bill. Upon the receipt of agency responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval of the chairperson of the Joint Committee on Legislative Research to publish a new fiscal note.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** expect costs around \$5,000 per location election (\$4,050 for additional election judges, \$250 for technical support rovers, \$700 for programming).

Officials at the **Callaway County** assume no fiscal impact from this proposal to their organization.

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State** assume The Help America Vote Act requires that for every federal election each polling place shall provide at least one voting machine accessible to blind or visually impaired voters. The provisions in this proposal expand this requirement to all elections, including local elections.

These new state mandates must be funded as additional responsibilities under Article X, section 21 of the Missouri Constitution.

For the purposes of this fiscal note, the Secretary of State's Office assumes that local election authorities already possess the necessary equipment to meet these new requirements. In the event local election authorities will need to purchase additional machines to meet the requirements in this proposal, the estimated cost per machine is \$5,000.

In response to similar legislation filed this year (HB 1379), officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume the cost to require an audio ballot from their vendor is \$8,000. This cost will increase based on number of languages, political parties on ballot, ballot faces, yes-no responses and price per word in excess of 1200 words total.

In response to similar legislation filed this year (HB 1379), officials at **Buchanan County** assume a fiscal impact for the cost to program the equipment, deliver the machines, etc.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

In response to similar legislation filed this year (HB 1379), officials at **Cole County** state they currently have 35 ADA compliant voting machines but are only required to use them during federal elections.

Preceding every federal election the county has to set up, program and test each unit. The day before the election all the voting machines are loaded and hauled out to each voting precinct. After the election, the machines are picked back up by staff and they have to be retested for accuracy. Cole County set up, programmed and tested 35 units and they had only one voter at one precinct that used the voting machine. They have to prepare 35 ADA machines, haul them to 35 different precincts and only have 1 being used.

Cole County estimates it cost around \$5,000 per election to use the ADA compliant voting equipment.

In response to similar legislation filed this year (HB 1379), officials at **Mississippi County** and the **Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners** each assume no fiscal impact from this proposal to their respective organizations.

Oversight notes this proposal states any additional election costs for the maintenance and use of such machines during statewide and general assembly elections shall be paid by the state and subject to appropriation. Therefore, Oversight assumes the local election authorities will see no net fiscal impact from this proposal.

Oversight notes we are unable to determine the number of election authorities that may need to purchase additional machines to meet the requirements in this proposal and/or set-up expenses. Therefore, Oversight will show the fiscal impact as greater than \$100,000.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer Out - SOS - additional machines plus other costs related to making voting machines available at all elections</u>	(Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES			
<u>Cost</u> - additional machines plus other costs related to making voting machines available at all elections	(Greater than \$100,000)	(Greater than \$100,000)	(Greater than \$100,000)
<u>Transfer In</u> - General Revenue- cost of additional machines plus other costs related to making voting machines available at all elections	Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>	Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>	Greater than <u>\$100,000</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES	<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

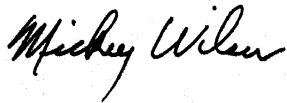
Under this act, election authorities are required to make at least one voting machine available at each polling place for use by blind or visually-impaired persons. Costs for the use and maintenance of such machines shall be paid by the state, subject to appropriation.

The act also permits any person to vote using a voting machine, regardless of whether or not he or she is blind or visually-impaired. Blind and visually-impaired voters may also continue to vote by absentee ballot.

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
Platte County Board of Election Commission
Kansas City Board of Election Commission
Mississippi County
Cole County
Buchanan County
Callaway County



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Director
March 4, 2016

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March 4, 2016