

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1147-01
Bill No.: HB 709
Subject: Elections; Cities, Towns and Villages; Political Subdivisions; Boards, Commissions, Committees, Councils
Type: Original
Date: March 18, 2011

Bill Summary: This proposal changes provisions relating to elections.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
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 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Local Government	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** assume that there is no fiscal impact from this proposal.

Officials at the **Johnson County Clerk** assume that it should be noted that the savings generated and the costs associated with this bill are to the districts calling for an election in April. The only way that Johnson County would be directly impacted is if we were to call for an election in an April Election. There would be a small amount of savings in the overall cost of the elections, particularly with the printing of ballots (there wouldn't be a need for write-in lines) and with publication costs for the same reason.

Overall the cost to conduct the election would go down. However, the cost to the remaining districts calling for an election would likely increase as there are still certain fixed costs associated with the election that don't change - programming the electronic voting machines, polling place rent, judges, judge training, etc. These costs would be disbursed over fewer districts. Applying the language in 115.124.1 RSMo to the upcoming April election, Johnson County would have two cities that would not have to call for an election and four more cities that would go from multiple contested races on the ballot to only one race, thereby lowering their district's prorated share of the overall election cost.

Officials at the following board of election commissions: Kansas City Board of Election Commission, 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, Barry, Bates, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Cole, Cooper, DeKalb, Franklin, Greene, Hickory, Holt, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Knox, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, New Madrid, Nodaway, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Platte, Pulaski, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Francois, Taney, Texas, Warren, and Webster did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact.

Oversight assumes that any elections not held would be a savings to the Local Election Authorities. Oversight has shown an Unknown savings to Local Election Authorities.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state many bills considered by the

ASSUMPTION (continued)

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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
---	---------------------	---------	---------

LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITY FUNDS

<u>Savings - elections not held</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
-------------------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITY FUNDS

<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
----------------	----------------	----------------

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

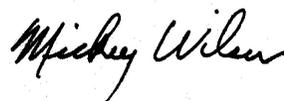
Currently, in a nonpartisan election in any political subdivision or special district with the exception of municipal elections, candidates are allowed to take office without an election if the number of candidates is equal to the number of positions to be filled and proper notice has been published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the district. This bill removes the exception for municipal elections.

Any write-in candidate for election to any office must file a declaration of intent with the election authority before 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh Tuesday before the election in order for a write-in vote to be counted.

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

Johnson County Clerk
Office of the Secretary of State
Platte County Board of Election Commissions



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
March 18, 2011