

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4411-01
Bill No.: SB 486
Subject: Elections
Type: Original
Date: January 10, 2012

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the law relating to voter registration and election offenses.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
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 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
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 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of Attorney General** assume that any potential costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources.

Officials at the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** and the **Office of State Courts Administrator** assume that there is no fiscal impact from this proposal.

Officials at the **Office of Prosecution Services** assume the creation of a new crime creates additional responsibilities for county prosecutors which may in turn result in additional unfunded costs which are difficult to determine.

For the purpose of this proposed legislation, the **Office of State Public Defender (SPD)** cannot assume existing staff will provide competent, effective representation for any indigent clients faced with the proposed new crimes relating to election offenses. While the number of new cases may be too few or uncertain to request additional funding for this specific bill, the SPD will continue to request sufficient appropriations to provide competent and effective representation in all its cases.

Oversight assumes the SPD can absorb the additional caseload that may result from this proposal.

Officials at the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** assume the penalty provision component of this bill may result in potential fiscal impact for DOC, is for a class B felony. Currently, the DOC cannot predict the number of new commitments which may result from the creation of the offense(s) outlined in this proposal. An increase in commitments depends on the utilization by prosecutors and the actual sentences imposed by the court. If additional persons are sentenced to the custody of the DOC due to the provisions of this legislation, the DOC will incur a corresponding increase in direct offender cost either through incarceration (FY11 average of \$16.878 per offender, per day, or an annual cost of \$6,160 per inmate) or through supervision provided by the Board of Probation and Parole (FY11 average of \$5.12 per offender, per day or an annual cost of \$1,869 per offender).

In summary, supervision by the DOC through probation or incarceration would result in additional unknown costs to the department. Seventeen (17) persons would have to be incarcerated per each fiscal year to exceed \$100,000 annually. Due to the narrow scope of this new crime, it is assumed the impact would be less than \$100,000 per year for the DOC.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Oversight assumes that due to the training of the individuals receiving the voter registration forms and the severity of the penalties that can be assessed, that people will comply with the provisions of this bill. Therefore Oversight believes that DOC can absorb the costs of this proposal.

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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
	<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

The proposed legislation appears to have no fiscal impact.

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

Department of Corrections
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Office of Attorney General
Office of Prosecution Services
Office of the Secretary of State
Office of State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Public Defender



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Director
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