

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0838-01
Bill No.: HB 188
Subject: Elections; County Officials
Type: Original
Date: March 8, 2013

Bill Summary: This proposal allows any registered voter who is eligible to vote in a particular election to do so by absentee ballot without being required to state a reason.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$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 5 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 or (Unknown over \$100,000)	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State** and **Buchanan County** each assume there is no fiscal impact to their organization from this proposal.

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 **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume this proposal would impact our office primarily with an inordinate number of mail absentee ballot requests. This is an extremely labor intensive operation when it comes to mailing the ballots, as well as opening them. Consequently, we will reflect the labor costs associated with the mailing operation. We could initially absorb the added costs with our existing staff for the low-turnout elections. We would only have to staff extra help for the higher turnout General elections and the presidential primary election.

2014 LABOR COSTS :

Labor for Mid-Term General Election

\$10 per hr. x 8 hrs. per day x 42 days x 50 temps = \$168,000

2016 LABOR COSTS:

Labor for Presidential Primary

\$10 per hr. x 8 hrs. per day x 42 days x 25 temps = \$84,000

Labor for Presidential Election

\$10 per hr. x 8 hrs. per day x 42 days x 50 temps = \$168,000

Officials at the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** assume additional temporaries would be needed as well as printing and postage would increase. The cost of a city wide election would increase \$10,000 to \$20,000 per election.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission** assume possible savings in 2015 and 2016 if we are able to consolidate several polling site locations for election day due to the no excuse absentee process. Savings realized are unknown at this time. Additional costs are anticipated if the Commission is required to open a satellite site to handle the increased volume of absentee voters. This satellite location is expected to cost \$165,050 in FY 2014.

Officials at **Monroe County** responded to Oversight's request for impact but did not indicate a fiscal impact.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials at **Johnson County** assume additional costs of \$850 for advance voting for additional envelopes and postage.

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

Officials at the following counties: Andrew, Audrain, Barry, Bates, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Cole, Cooper, DeKalb, Franklin, Greene, Holt, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Laclede, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Miller, Moniteau, 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.

Oversight assumes it is not possible to determine if this proposal which removes the requirement to state a reason to cast an absentee ballot will increase the number who file absentee ballots. Oversight will reflect costs to the local election authorities of \$0 (no additional absentee ballots cast) or Unknown over \$100,000 (if multiple districts have increases in absentee ballots cast and need additional absentee supplies).

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2014 (10 Mo.)	FY 2015	FY 2016
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2014 (10 Mo.)	FY 2015	FY 2016
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LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITY FUNDS

<u>Cost</u> - local election authorities for no excuses absentee voting	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITY FUNDS	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)	\$0 or (Unknown over \$100,000)
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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

This bill allows any voter to vote with an absentee ballot in any election without being required to state a reason for voting absentee.

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

Buchanan County
Johnson County
Kansas City Board of Election Commission
Monroe County
Office of Attorney General
Office of the Secretary of State
Platte County Board of Election Commission
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission



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