


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0270
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Holbert
 Sen. Harvey

Date: February 28, 2011
Bill Status: House SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO REQUEST PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP OF ANY ELECTOR WHOSE NAME APPEARS IN THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE WHO THE SECRETARY OF STATE BELIEVES IS NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds		
Department of State Cash Fund	\$12,060	
Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund	19,425	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: January 1, 2012.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Secretary of State to compare information in the statewide computerized voter registration system (SCORE) against other state and federal agency records to determine the citizenship status of registered voters.

Following a review of available evidence, a notice is sent to any voter registered in SCORE who the secretary believes is not a United States citizen. Registered voters receiving such a notice have 90 days to submit documentation to the secretary. One of the following must be submitted as proof of citizenship:

- a U.S. passport or photocopy of its relevant pages;
- a birth certificate or photocopy of a birth certificate;
- naturalization information, subject to verification by the secretary; or
- other documents accepted as proof of citizenship under federal law.

If a voter fails to submit proof of citizenship within 90 days of the secretary's notice, that voter will be deemed to have an incomplete registration record and becomes ineligible to vote.

The secretary is required to assist voters claiming a financial hardship by obtaining a certified copy of the voter's birth certificate. A Colorado birth certificate is furnished at no charge by the state registrar of vital statistics or the secretary pays, as needed, an out-of-state agency to mail a certified copy of the voter's birth certificate.

State Expenditures

In FY 2011-12, the bill increases costs by \$12,060 on a one-time basis in the Department of State and creates one-time costs of \$19,425 in the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Under the bill, the Department of State will mail notifications requesting proof of citizenship to approximately 19,000 registered voters, at a cost of \$9,880 for postage. The department will also incur a cost of \$2,180 for 20 hours of vendor programming support to modify the statewide computerized voter registration system (SCORE) to allow voting records to be marked incomplete, as required by the bill. The department is able to absorb within existing resources the costs associated with scanning proof of citizenship, where provided in response to the department's notice. For voters claiming financial hardship in response to the secretary's notice, the department will pay the costs to obtain birth certificates from other states; the number of out-of-state birth certificates needed to implement the bill has not been estimated.

Assuming 19,000 voters are required to prove citizenship under the bill, it is estimated that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will receive approximately 700 certified requests for a Colorado birth certificate from the Secretary of State. The cost to provide two certified copies of a Colorado birth certificate (one to the voter and one to the Secretary of State, as required by the bill) is \$27.75. The office of the state registrar of vital records in CDPHE will incur a one-time cost of \$19,425 to comply with the bill.

New voter registrations will require periodic review by the Secretary of State. However, once the initial list of potentially ineligible voters is processed, new registrations are a fraction of total voter registrations in SCORE; ongoing costs to the affected departments are assumed to be minimal.

State Appropriations

The Department of State requires a cash funds appropriation of \$12,060 for FY 2011-12 from the Department of State Cash Fund; the Department of Public Health and Environment requires a cash funds appropriation of \$19,425 for FY 2011-12 from the Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund.

Departments Contacted

State Public Health and Environment