

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 09-0687
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Kopp; Penry

Date: May 27, 2009
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR BE FILLED BY A VACANCY ELECTION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate SVMA Committee on February 11, 2009.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2009-2010: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that a vacancy election be held in the event of a vacancy in the office of a United States senator. A vacancy election for a U.S. senator is to be set by the Governor between 75 and 90 days after the vacancy occurs, but not within the 90 days prior to a general election.

State Expenditures

In the event of a vacancy, the Department of State may incur additional costs during the election for petition verification, ballot certification, and county support. However, U.S. Senate vacancies are expected to be rare and any costs could be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

Costs to counties are conditional upon a U.S. Senate vacancy occurring and the timing of the subsequent vacancy election. Such vacancies are not anticipated to occur frequently. Prior to the 2009 vacancy, the most recent U.S. Senate vacancy in Colorado occurred in 1941.

A U.S. Senate vacancy would require a statewide election, which would impact all counties. If the vacancy occurred at a time that allowed the vacancy election to be held concurrently with a general election, cost increases to counties would be minimal. If the vacancy election were to be held separately from a regularly scheduled election, counties would incur costs similar to other elections. Costs for a large front range county are estimate to be \$1 million for an election using polling places and \$400,000 for an all mail ballot election. Costs would be lower for smaller counties with fewer polling places.

Departments Contacted

State