


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT
(replaces fiscal note dated February 6, 2007)

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0481
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Kefalas
 Sen. Gordon

Date: March 5, 2007
Bill Status: House Appropriations
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE USE OF ADVANCED VOTING METHODS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A STUDY GROUP AND PILOT PROJECT ON THE USE OF INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING AND OTHER METHODS THAT ALLOW VOTERS TO EXPRESS PREFERENCES ON MULTIPLE CANDIDATES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009
State Revenue		
Cash Funds - Voter Choice Cash Fund	gifts, grants, & donations	\$0
State Expenditures		
General Fund	\$25,431	\$0
FTE Position Change	0.4 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

As amended in the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee, the bill establishes a group to study instant runoff voting and other voting methods that allow a voter to indicate a preference for more than one candidate in an election where the winner is determined by majority vote.

The 13-member study group must report to the General Assembly and the Secretary of State by January 8, 2008. Like interim legislative committees, staff support for the study group will be provided by the Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services.

State Revenue

The bill establishes a cash fund to consist of gifts, grants, and donations received by the study group. At this time, no such moneys have been identified. Any money remaining in the cash fund on January 9, 2008, would be transferred to the General Fund.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state expenditures by \$25,431 in FY 2007-08, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HB 07-1162		
Cost Components	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09
Personal Services	\$20,751	\$0
FTE	0.4	0.0
Operating Expenses	\$4,680	\$0
TOTAL	\$25,431	\$0

Legislative Department. The bill will increase costs of the Legislative Department by \$25,431 in FY 2007-08, including expenses and staff support for the study group. The bill establishes a cash fund consisting of gifts, grants, and donations to pay for the costs of the study and continuously appropriates money in the fund to the study group. Since no such moneys are known to exist at this time, it assumed that costs would be paid from the General Fund. It should be noted, however, that the General Assembly budgets for a limited number of interim committees each year and if this study is designated as one of the committees approved for the 2007 interim, the costs would be covered through existing appropriations.

Staff support for the study group will require \$20,751 and 0.4 FTE in FY 2007-08. Members of the study group will not be compensated but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses. On average, members are expected to seek reimbursement for \$60 in expenses per member per meeting. Assuming the committee meets 6 times between July 1, 2007, and January 8, 2008, the cost of expense reimbursement would be \$4,680 in FY 2007-08. Additional costs may also be incurred if the group chooses to travel to observe the use of advanced voting methods in other places in Colorado or in other states.

State Appropriations

The Legislative Department would require a General Fund appropriation of \$25,431 for FY 2007-08, unless the committee is designated as an official interim committee for 2007.

Departments Contacted

Judicial
Office of Legislative Legal Services

Legislative Council Staff
State