

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**FINAL**  
**FISCAL NOTE**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 08-0105  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Marostica  
 Sen. Gordon

**Date:** June 3, 2008  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURES OF ELECTORS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF SIGNATURE VERIFICATION DEVICES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2008-2009	FY 2009-2010
<b>State Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>State Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> The bill was signed by the Governor and became law on April 10, 2008.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2008-2009:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> Counties may elect to purchase signature-matching equipment which could reduce costs for election judges.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill modifies the process for verifying a voter's signature on a mail ballot. It allows clerks to use machines to do the match and allows that the match be made against either the signature on file with the clerk and recorder or the statewide voter registration database.

The Secretary of State may adopt rules establishing procedures for using signature verification devices to process ballots. If the machine determines a match, the signature would be deemed verified. If the machine is unable to determine a match, the matter would be referred to an election judge for a determination, as under current law.

**State Expenditures**

The bill will not affect state expenditures, but it will require some effort on the part of the vendor hired by the state to administer the statewide voter registration database. The system will have to be modified to process files produced by a signature verification device and indicate when a voter has cast a ballot. The capability to extract signature information and provide this to county election officials already exists.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill permits counties to use a device to assist in verifying signatures on a return envelope containing a ballot. Counties that elect to use such a device would incur costs for purchasing the device. However, a device would likely verify signatures faster than election judges, so the costs may be offset by reducing the need for election judges.

**Departments Contacted**

State