

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**LOCAL**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 09-0402  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Murray  
 Sen. Hodge

**Date:** January 13, 2009  
**Bill Status:** House SVMA  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING CERTAIN ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL IN CONDUCTING PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
<b>Effective Date:</b> 90 days following final adjournment of the General Assembly unless a referendum petition is filed (August 4, 2009, if final adjournment is May 6, 2009).		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2009-2010:</b> None		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section of the fiscal note.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill allows counties to conduct mail ballot elections for primary elections. Current law only allows for mail ballot elections for nonpartisan elections that do not occur at the same time as a primary or congressional vacancy election.

The bill also requires election officials to cancel uncontested primary elections under certain conditions. If there is only one major party candidate nominated for a primary as of the 30th day before the election, the primary election will be cancelled and that candidate declared the party's nominee and placed on the ballot for the general election.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill may reduce the cost of conducting primary elections, which are entirely funded by the counties. Allowing mail balloting for primary elections could result in cost savings for counties. Cost savings from mail ballot elections in medium and large population counties are estimated to range from \$200,000 to \$600,000 per county, per primary election. Mail ballot elections would increase costs for postage and envelopes, but these costs would be offset by cost savings realized by eliminating the need for polling space, voting equipment, and staff for primary elections.

The cancellation of uncontested primary elections could result in minimal cost savings for counties. Cancelling a small number of uncontested primaries for an election could result in a shorter ballot and lower printing costs. In the event that every primary contest in a county were cancelled under the provisions of this bill, counties could realize larger cost savings from not holding the primary election at all. However, the likelihood of all primary contests being uncontested in a given election year is very small.

**Departments Contacted**

State