

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 10-0201	<b>Date:</b> May 27, 2010
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Court; Murray Sen. White	<b>Bill Status:</b> Postponed Indefinitely
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE FORM OF A STATEWIDE BALLOT TITLE.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2010-2011</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on May 3, 2010.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill establishes a uniform style for statewide ballot titles for initiated and referred measures beginning in the 2012 general election. These changes include:

- presenting key points of the ballot issue as a bulleted list rather than in paragraph form;
- expanding the current "Yes" or "No" response to a ballot issue to "Yes/For" or "No/Against"; and
- replacing the phrase "and, in connection therewith" with the word "that" before the bulleted section of the ballot title.

**Local Government Impact**

The format changes to ballot titles required by the bill could increase costs to counties in two main areas: 1) printing and postage from increased ballot length; and 2) voting machine programming.

*Printing and postage costs.* Including bulleted lists in ballot titles and expanding the "Yes/No" voting description could make ballots longer, which would increase the printing and postage costs to counties. The exact length of ballots varies by election year and location, so it is difficult to predict what impact the format change would have in any given election in a county. In general election years with a large number of ballot measures, the format required by the bill could increase ballot length significantly.

A large, Front Range county could have increased printing costs of between \$100,000 and \$400,000, depending on the length of the ballot. Mailing costs would also increase, depending on the additional weight of the ballot and the number of voters requesting mail ballots. Counties with smaller populations would also incur increased costs in these areas in proportion to their size. The increased printing and postage costs for counties would be lower in election years with fewer ballot measures.

***Programming costs.*** Counties are required to maintain electronic voting machines for the purpose of complying with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The formatting changes to ballot titles would require a one-time programming change to ensure that voting machines properly display ballot measures. Counties that have in-house programmers can likely absorb the extra staff time required to make the changes; counties that contract with outside programmers would likely incur increased costs to pay their contractors to make these changes to their electronic voting systems.

#### **Departments Contacted**

Legislature

State