



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

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0160
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Levy; Lee
 Sen. Newell

Date: February 22, 2011
Bill Status: House SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE "UNIFORM MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS ACT".

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: None required.		
Local Government Impact: Increased costs to counties. See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill, recommended by the Colorado Commission on Uniform State Laws, enacts the "Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act." The bill specifies the military and overseas voters and the types of elections to which the bill applies. The Secretary of State is required to make information available to covered voters on the procedures for registering to vote and casting a military-overseas ballot. The Secretary of State is also required to create various forms, applications, and other material related to military and overseas voting and to electronically provide election information and material. The bill sets forth procedures for voter registration; allowable means of transmitting ballots to voters; deadlines for the mailing, receipt, and counting of military-overseas ballots; and other provisions. The bill also makes conforming amendments to existing state election law.

State Expenditures

The bill requires the Department of State (DOS) to create various forms, applications, and materials for military and overseas voters, which will result in a minimal increase in workload and costs. The DOS is also required to make various election information and material available electronically and to facilitate electronic voter registration. Current initiatives by the department meet these requirements, and no new costs are expected in these areas. Therefore, it is assumed that existing staff and resources can be used to implement the bill and that no new appropriation is required.

Local Government Impact

The bill could result in a small increase in costs to county clerks in the vote counting process. Military and overseas ballots must be counted if they are received up to 16 days after a general election and are postmarked by the election date. However, current state law requires that election results be certified by the 17th day after a general election. Therefore, county clerks may have overtime staff costs to complete the count of overseas and military ballots received, and to review signatures, audit results, and complete other tasks in the short period after the last ballots are counted.

Departments Contacted

State