

CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT

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Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Lambert
Rep. Holbert

Bill Status: Senate SVMA

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TITLE: SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO REQUEST PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP OF ANY ELECTOR WHOSE NAME APPEARS IN THE COMPUTERIZED STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST WHO THE SECRETARY OF STATE BELIEVES IS NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
General Fund		
Cash Funds		
Department of State Cash Fund		\$18,179
Vital Statistics Records Cash Fund		6,615
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon voter approval at the 2012 general election.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This concurrent resolution refers a constitutional amendment to the voters at the 2012 general election. If approved by the voters, the measure requires the Secretary of State to compare information in the statewide computerized voter registration system (SCORE) against other state and federal agency records to determine the citizenship status of registered voters.

Following a review of available evidence, a notice is sent to any voter registered in SCORE who the secretary believes is not a United States citizen. Registered voters receiving such a notice have 90 days to submit documentation to the secretary. One of the following must be submitted as proof of citizenship:

- a U.S. passport or, subject to the secretary's discretion, a photocopy of its relevant pages;
- a birth certificate or, subject to the secretary's discretion, a photocopy of a birth certificate;

- naturalization information, subject to verification by the secretary; or
- other documents accepted as proof of citizenship under federal law, including documents identified on the federal I-9 form.

If a voter fails to submit proof of citizenship within 90 days of the secretary's notice, that voter will be deemed to have an incomplete registration record and becomes ineligible to vote.

The secretary is required to assist voters claiming a financial hardship by obtaining a certified copy of the voter's birth certificate. A Colorado birth certificate is furnished at no charge by the state registrar of vital statistics or the secretary pays, as needed, an out-of-state agency to mail a certified copy of the voter's birth certificate.

State Expenditures

If enacted in the 2012 general election, the constitutional amendment will result in one-time costs for FY 2012-13 of \$18,179 in the Department of State and \$6,615 in the Department of Public Health and Environment.

The Department of State will mail notifications requesting proof of citizenship to approximately 11,000 registered voters, with a postage cost of \$0.52 per mailing, for a total mailing cost of \$5,720. The department will also incur a cost of \$2,180 for 20 hours of vendor programming support to modify the statewide computerized voter registration system (SCORE) to allow voting records to be marked incomplete. The department is able to absorb within existing resources the costs associated with scanning proof of citizenship, where provided in response to the department's notice. For voters claiming financial hardship in response to the secretary's notice, the department will pay the costs to obtain birth certificates from other states; the number of out-of-state birth certificates the department must acquire is estimated at 486 individuals, with a cost of \$10,279 based on an estimated average cost of \$21.15 to acquire one duplicate birth certificate from another state. With the potential to cross-check additional databases, the secretary may be able to narrow the list of registered voters not believed to be citizens; this may reduce the number of mailings and the number of birth certificates to be furnished under the constitutional amendment, with an associated reduction in anticipated costs.

Assuming 11,000 voters are required to prove citizenship under the constitutional amendment, it is estimated that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will receive approximately 378 certified requests for a Colorado birth certificate from the Secretary of State. The cost to provide a certified copy of a Colorado birth certificate is \$17.50. The office of the state registrar of vital records in CDPHE will incur a one-time cost of \$6,615 to furnish birth certificates.

New voter registrations will require periodic review by the Secretary of State. However, once the initial list of potentially ineligible voters is processed, new registrations are a fraction of total voter registrations in SCORE; ongoing costs to the affected departments are assumed to be minimal.

Election Expenditure Impacts (For Informational Purposes Only)

The bill refers a measure to the voters at the November 2012 general election. This measure will be published in newspapers, and an analysis of the measure will be included in the Blue Book mailed to all registered voter households prior to the election. Under current law, costs for these functions will be paid through a General Fund line item in the Long Appropriations Bill. Table 1 below identifies the anticipated costs for the 2012 Blue Book.

Printing	\$400,000
Postage	\$450,000
Translation	\$20,000
Newspaper Publication (English & Spanish)	\$500,000
Total Cost (14 issues)	\$1,370,000
Average Cost per Issue	\$97,857

Departments Contacted

State Public Health and Environment