

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 11-0082

**Date:** January 20, 2011

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Harvey  
Rep. Holbert

**Bill Status:** Senate SVMA

**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> August 10, 2011, assuming the General Assembly adjourns May 11, 2011, as scheduled and no referendum petition is filed.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires proof of citizenship to register to vote in Colorado. To register with the county clerk or at a driver's license examination facility, a voter must submit one of the following forms of identification, or a legible copy:

- a United States passport;
- a birth certificate;
- a certificate of naturalization (or verifiable naturalization number); or
- other documentation of citizenship allowed under federal law.

Voters who are currently registered are not required to provide proof of citizenship. In addition, proof of citizenship is not required to update a voter's address, personal information, or party affiliation. Military and overseas voters registering by federal postcard application are exempt from the requirements of the bill.

## **State Expenditures**

The Department of State requires about 40 hours of staff time to make programming changes to the statewide voter registration system (SCORE) to allow the system to record that a voter's citizenship is verified. This fiscal note assumes that neither SCORE nor the Secretary of State's on-line voter registration system would be required to electronically receive citizenship documents.

The Department of Revenue requires staff time to update its procedures for registering voters in Division of Motor Vehicles service centers. Additional staff time would also be required to update the department website to list appropriate documentation required for motor voter registration.

The fiscal note assumes that staff requirements noted in this section can be accomplished within existing appropriations and that no additional appropriations are required at this time.

## **Local Government Impact**

The bill increases costs to county clerks in four areas:

- County clerk offices would require additional staff training and updates to various forms and procedures.
- Additional staff time would be required to process voter registrations.
- Persons registered by a voter registration drive or agency (such as the state's on-line voter registration system) without complete documentation must be contacted by the clerk by mail.
- Documents submitted to prove citizenship in the voter registration process must be retained by county clerks.

Costs to county clerks will vary by county based on population, demographics, and other factors. The estimated first-year cost for a mid-size county is \$50,000. Costs to counties are expected to decrease in the future based on greater agency and public awareness of the requirement to register with proof of citizenship.

## **Departments Contacted**

State              Revenue