

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0771
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Heath
 Rep. Murray

Date: March 21, 2011
Bill Status: Senate SVMA
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TITLE: CONCERNING THE ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN DATES RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL "MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTER EMPOWERMENT (MOVE) ACT" BUT EXCLUDING THE ADJUSTMENT OF ANY DATES RELATED TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

Summary of Legislation

The bill moves up the dates for primary elections and precinct caucuses in even-year elections to earlier in the year and adjusts various election deadlines to comply with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Table 1 provides an overview of the dates and deadlines changed by the bill.

Table 1. Changes to Election Dates and Deadlines under SB11-189		
Election Date/Deadline	Under SB11-189	Current Law
Date of primary election	Last Tuesday in June	Second Tuesday in August
Date of precinct caucuses	First Tuesday in March	Third Tuesday in March
Deadline to cancel a primary election if only one candidate has filed	74th day before the primary election	60th day before the primary election
Deadline for parties to designate candidates for a primary election by assembly	84th day before the primary election	70th day before the primary election
Deadline for parties to hold county assemblies	No later than 20 days after precinct caucuses	Between 10 and 30 days after the precinct caucuses
Date to begin collecting signatures to designate a candidate by petition	Second Monday in February	Last Monday in March
Deadline for candidates to file when petitioning onto a primary ballot	89th day before the primary election	75th day before the primary election
Deadline to complete signature verification of candidate petitions	21st day before the primary election	On or before the primary election date
Deadline for minor party candidates to petition onto the general election ballot	179th day before the general election	140th day before the general election
Deadline for unaffiliated candidates to submit additional signatures to cure a petition insufficiency when petitioning onto the general election ballot	144th day before the general election	95th day before the general election

Table 1. Changes to Election Dates and Deadlines under SB11-189		
Election Date/Deadline	Under SB11-189	Current Law
Deadline to provide notice of sufficiency to unaffiliated candidate attempting to cure a petition insufficiency	133rd day before the general election	90th day before the general election
Deadline for candidates to file an affidavit of intent	110th day before a non-primary election	70th day before a non-primary election
Deadline for minor parties to nominate candidates by assembly for a general election	84th day before the primary election	65th day before the primary election
Deadline for mail ballots to be delivered or mailed to military and overseas voters	45th day before the election	30th day before the election
Deadline for the Secretary of State to compile and total the returns from all counties	30th day after any non-primary election	24th day after any non-primary election
Deadline for an interested party to request a recount	21 days after a primary election	20 days after a primary election

Assessment

The bill is not expected to affect state or local revenue or expenditures and is assessed as having no fiscal impact. Changing the various dates and deadlines may cause some duties of county clerks and the Secretary of State to occur within shorter time frames, while other duties will have more time to be completed. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have any significant impact on overall election costs.

Departments Contacted

State