

  
*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**FINAL**  
**FISCAL NOTE**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 12-0016  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Court  
 Sen. Steadman

**Date:** May 15, 2012  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC WORDING RELATED TO A STATEWIDE BALLOT TITLE.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
<b>Effective Date:</b> The bill was signed into law on March 24, 2012, and takes effect May 1, 2012, except that Section 1-40-106 (3)(b) C.R.S. amended in Section 2 and Sections 3 and 4 take effect on January 1, 2013.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> Minimal. See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires changes to the wording of statewide ballot titles for initiated and referred measures. The changes are implemented in two stages, with some changes beginning in the 2012 election, and others in the following election cycle (likely 2013 or 2014, depending on when statewide measures appear on the ballot). Table 1 outlines the changes and when they take effect.

<b>Table 1. Changes to Ballot Title Wording Under HB 12-1089</b>	
2012 Election	2013/2014 Election
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specify that the measure is either a "change to the Colorado Revised Statutes" or an "amendment to the Colorado Constitution"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change the voting options from "Yes" and "No" to "Yes/For" and "No/Against"</li> <li>Removes the specific requirement that blank spaces be to the right of "Yes" and "No" following the ballot title and that the voter's mark must be an "X"</li> </ul>

**State Revenue and Expenditures**

The bill is not expected to impact revenue and expenditures for any state agency. The Office of Legislative Legal Services and the Title Board can implement the required ballot title wording for referred and initiated measures without additional cost.

**Local Government Impact**

To the extent that the changes to ballot wording increase the length of ballots, county clerks could incur higher costs for ballot printing and postage, especially in cases where increased length necessitates an additional page on the ballot. However, this analysis concludes that the net change to ballot length will be minimal and that any increased costs to county clerks will also be minimal.

**Departments Contacted**

State            Legislature            Law            County Clerks