

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0074

Date: January 23, 2012

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Williams S.
Rep. Looper

Bill Status: Senate SVMA

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING VOTING BY MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Transfers or Diversions Transfer from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Internet-based Voting Pilot Program Fund	(\$100,000)	
State Expenditures Cash Funds Internet-based Voting Pilot Program Fund	\$100,000	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: See State Appropriations Section.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes several changes to increase voting access by military personnel. First, the bill allows the internet voting pilot created by House Bill 09-1205 to be funded by sources other than gifts, grants, and donations and transfers \$100,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Internet-based Voting Pilot Program Fund. Second, the bill allows military voters to verbally provide a commissioned offer with the information necessary for the officer to request a mail-in ballot on the voter's behalf. Lastly, the bill authorizes a valid veteran identification card, with a photograph of the voter issued by Veterans Health Administration in the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, to be used as identification in the voter registration process.

Background

House Bill 09-1205 created an internet-based voting pilot program to facilitate voting by uniformed services voters serving outside the United States for the 2012 general election. Implementation of the bill was contingent upon receipt of sufficient gifts, grants, and donations. The final fiscal note by Legislative Council Staff estimated the costs of the bill as \$392,500 in FY 2011-12 and \$92,500 in FY 2012-13. At this time, no source of gifts, grants, and donations have been identified.

State Transfers or Diversions

The bill transfers \$100,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Internet-based Voting Pilot Program Fund on July 1, 2012, to implement the internet voting pilot created by HB 09-1205.

State Expenditures

The bill does not create new costs for the Department of State, but rather, makes funding available to implement the internet-based voting pilot for military voters as authorized by current law. The funding transferred to the pilot program fund is not sufficient to fully implement the voting pilot program statewide according to the final fiscal note for HB 09-1205 and current department cost estimates. However, \$100,000 is sufficient for the voting pilot program to be partially implemented by the Department of State in five large counties. The other provisions of the bill, concerning voter identification and requests for mail-in ballots, will not affect costs in the Department of State.

Pending budget items related to the voting pilot. The Department of State submitted a supplemental budget request to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) for FY 2011-12 concerning the internet-based voting pilot program. This supplemental request seeks funding to begin implementation of the voting pilot prior to the 2012 primary elections in June using funds available in the Department of State Cash Fund. This request was approved by the JBC on January 17, 2012. The department's budget request for FY 2012-13 also includes a pending decision item to continue funding for the program for the 2012 general election and beyond. If the supplemental appropriation bill is approved for FY 2011-12 and the decision item is incorporated into the FY 2012-13 budget, this bill would provide duplicate funding for the military voting pilot.

State Appropriations

The bill requires the following in FY 2012-13:

- a transfer of \$100,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Internet-based Voting Pilot Program Fund; and
- an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Department of State from the Internet-based Voting Pilot Program Fund.

Departments Contacted

State Treasurer