



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0002
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Brown
 Sen. Nicholson

Date: January 20, 2012
Bill Status: House Local Government
Fiscal Analyst: Harry Zeid (303-866-4753)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE ELECTION OF A COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN SEVENTY THOUSAND BY THE VOTERS RESIDING IN THE DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE COMMISSIONER RUNS FOR ELECTION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2012, assuming the General Assembly adjourns May 9, 2012, as scheduled and no referendum petition is filed. The bill applies to elections for county commissioners conducted on or after the effective date of the bill.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See the Local government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

For counties with population of less than 70,000, the board of county commissioners is comprised of three elected officials each representing a geographic district of approximately one-third of the county's population. All electors in the county vote for a candidate in each of the three district elections. The bill allows the voters of a county with a population of less than 70,000 to change the method of election so that each commissioner is elected exclusively by the voters residing within that district.

To change method of electing county commissioners, the bill authorizes the board of county commissioners to refer the question to the voters. Alternatively, qualified electors may file a petition to have the question placed on the countywide ballot at the next general election. Any change in the method of election applies to the terms of newly elected commissioners. The terms of office of the three presently elected commissioners remain unchanged.

Local Government Impact

Based on 2010 Census data, 53 of Colorado's 64 counties have population of less than 70,000. In these counties, the method of voting for county commissioner representation could be changed if a ballot question is requested and then approved by voters. Although the bill allows for an alternative method of electing county commissioners, it does not require that the current method be changed. It is unknown whether the cost to produce a ballot to elect commissioners by district will be greater than, equal to, or possibly less than the cost of producing ballots under the current method. Changes in election costs may vary by county. Any expenditures associated with placing the question on the ballot to change county commissioner election procedures and the additional cost to sort and count ballots in a manner that is different than current practice is assumed to be minimal.

Departments Contacted

Local Affairs