

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 12-0611  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Murray  
 Sen. Heath

**Date:** February 27, 2012  
**Bill Status:** House SVMA  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Kirk Mlinek (303-866-4782)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING TECHNICAL MODIFICATIONS TO LAWS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, HARMONIZING CURRENT LAWS WITH FEDERAL LAW, ALTERING THE TIME PERIODS WITHIN WHICH CERTAIN ACTIONS MUST BE TAKEN, RAISING CERTAIN FEES, AND DELETING OBSOLETE REFERENCES.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-12 Current Year</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>	<b>FY 2013-2014</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>			
Cash Funds			
Department of State Cash Fund		Minimal Increase	
<b>State Expenditures</b>			
Cash Funds			
Department of State Cash Fund	\$14,000		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>			
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.			
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013:</b> None required.			
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.			

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill makes various technical and nonsubstantive changes to elections laws, including altering and clarifying elections-related deadlines; updating procedures in light of modern elections practices or technology; correcting, streamlining, or harmonizing laws; repealing redundant provisions; and recognizing the existence of more than two major political parties. Among other things, the bill:

- adds tribal identification to the list of acceptable elector identification;
- makes identification of gender an optional response for a person registering to vote;
- allows county clerks to cancel incomplete registrations if the applicant fails to cure the deficiency within two years after being apprised;
- raises the fee to file as an unaffiliated candidate for president or vice president of the United States from \$500 to \$1,000;

- expands a candidate's permissible use of a nickname on a ballot from primary elections to all elections;
- allows any elections official, not just clerks and recorders, to designate student election judges;
- allows any person, not just election judges or eligible electors, to assist voters who need assistance; and
- requires designated elections officials to provide a mail ballot to a registered elector upon an in-person request at the official's office if such request is made prior to the ballot being mailed.

### **State Revenue**

Current law permits an unaffiliated candidate for the office of president or vice president of the United States to either pay a nonrefundable filing fee of \$500 or to file a petition for nomination. The bill increases the nonrefundable filing fee to \$1,000. This revenue is deposited in the Department of State Cash fund. Any revenue increase resulting from this change is expected to be minimal.

### **State Expenditures**

The Department of State will have one-time costs of \$14,000 to revise, print, and distribute new voter registration forms and other election-related materials. The department is required to provide these forms to county clerks, voter registration drives, and other designated agencies that provide for voter registration under the National Voter Registration Act. Forms will be amended to include as a valid form of identification an identification card issued by a federally-recognized tribal government that certifies tribal membership.

Given the bill's effective date, the fiscal note assumes that the department will replace current supplies of voter registration forms statewide, and that the expenditure will occur in FY 2011-12. These costs will be paid from the Department of State Cash Fund within existing appropriations.

### **Local Government Impact**

The bill will increase the workload of county clerks. The offices of county clerks will be required to update various election-related calendars and related procedures.

### **Departments Contacted**

State  
Counties

Local Affairs  
Special Districts

Clerks