



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
**STATE and LOCAL
 FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0609
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Coram
 Sen. Grantham

Date: February 14, 2012
Bill Status: House SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE SIMPLIFICATION OF CERTAIN PREELECTION PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE COST OF ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue		
State Expenditures Cash Funds Department of State Cash Fund	Minimal impact. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, and applies to elections held on or after the date the bill becomes effective.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: None required.		
Local Government Impact: Cost savings to counties. See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill streamlines certain pre-election tasks in the administration of elections. Specifically, the bill:

- gives a political subdivision, with the approval of the Secretary of State, the ability to establish a vote center for a general election, even if the subdivision had not previously used a vote center in a non-general election;
- repeals the requirement that mail-in ballots have a ballot stub;
- consolidates various mailings to voters prior to mail ballot elections and specifies that these mailings are to be sent by nonforwardable mail; and
- reduces the period for early voting to the 7 days prior to the election for elections after January 1, 2013, and specifies that while county commissioners may vote to extend the hours of early voting, they may not increase the number of days (under current law early voting may occur for 15 days before a general election and 10 days before a primary or special election).

State Expenditures

The bill will result in minimal costs to the Department of State, which will be required to alter training material, policy guides, and other information. In addition, some minor changes will be required to the statewide voter registration system (SCORE). It is assumed that these tasks can be accomplished within existing resources and staffing, and that no new appropriation is required at this time.

Local Government Impact

Counties are expected to realize savings under the bill for reduced printing, postage, and staffing costs. Savings will vary by the size of the county and are estimated based upon a survey of county clerks. The cost savings are summarized in Table 1 and the discussion below.

Table 1. Approximate Cost Savings to Counties Under HB 12-1267			
Cost Components	Small County	Medium County	Large County
Reducing Early Voting to 1 Week	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Consolidating Mailings	2,000	8,500	25,000
Eliminating Ballot Stubs	500	7,000	16,500
TOTAL	\$4,500	\$20,500	\$61,500

Reducing early voting. Savings from reducing early voting are primarily from reduced staffing costs. Savings from reduced early voting could be offset if counties elect to open additional vote centers to receive mail ballots prior to the election (as reported by one large county).

Consolidating mailings. Consolidating the various mailings in the bill will reduce postage and printing costs.

Eliminating ballot stubs. About half of counties do not use ballot stubs, as the Secretary of State can waive this requirement. Counties that still use ballot stubs will have savings in staffing costs to remove ballot stubs when processing ballots, as well as minimal savings in printing costs.

Departments Contacted

State County Clerks