

## Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note



**FINAL**  
**FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 14-0294	<b>Date:</b> August 11, 2014
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Court; Coram	<b>Bill Status:</b> Postponed Indefinitely
Sen. Crowder; Schwartz	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

**SHORT TITLE:** CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE PETITION SIGNATURES

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b> Cash Funds	Minimal net change.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required: None.</b>		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

\*\* These costs are not included in the bill's appropriation. See the State Expenditures section for more information.

**Summary of Legislation**

The concurrent resolution refers a constitutional amendment to voters at the 2014 general election that changes the requirements to place a citizen initiated constitutional amendment on the ballot. Specifically, the resolution:

- doubles the number of required signatures for an initiative petition from five percent to ten percent; and
- requires a minimum number of signatures to be collected from each congressional district.

The resolution applies to initiative petitions proposed for the 2015 odd-year election or any election thereafter. The resolution specifies that initiative petitions must receive at least 70 percent of the minimum number of the total signatures necessary divided by the number of Congressional districts. Currently this represents one percent of the votes cast, however, this number may be adjusted if the number of congressional districts change over time. Initiative petitions including both state legislation and a constitutional amendment must meet the constitutional amendment signature requirements set forth in the resolution. These requirements do not apply to amendments repealing provisions approved by voters prior to 2015.

**State Expenditures**

The resolution may decrease the number of petitions submitted to the Secretary of State for review, it also makes the verification process more difficult by requiring specific Congressional district allocations. Current law requires that the Secretary of State conduct a line-by-line signature verification if the initial sampling of an initiative petition determines that the number of valid signatures submitted is between 90 and 110 percent of the number of required signatures for the

initiative petition to appear on the ballot. In the event that the Secretary of State's office needs to conduct a line-by-line verification, due to the increase in signatures, costs may increase. However, because it is anticipated that fewer initiative petitions will be submitted for approval, this resolution may have a minimal net change in workload. Petition verification costs are paid from the Department of State's Cash Fund.

**Election costs.** The bill refers a measure to the voters at the November 2014 general election. This measure will be published in newspapers and an analysis of the measure will be included in the Blue Book mailed to all registered voter households prior to the election. Under current law, costs for these functions will be paid through a General Fund line item in the Long Appropriations Bill. Table 1 below identifies the anticipated costs for the 2014 Blue Book.

<b>Table 1. Cost to Produce and Distribute the 2014 Blue Book to All Registered Voter Households</b>	
Printing	\$450,000
Postage	\$450,000
Translation	\$15,000
Newspaper Publication (English & Spanish)	\$400,000
<b>Total Cost (12 issues)</b>	<b>\$1,315,000</b>
<b>Average Cost per Issue</b>	<b>\$109,583</b>

**Effective Date**

The proposed constitutional amendment was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 30, 2014.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Secretary of State

Legislative Council

County Clerks