

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

Drafting Number: LLS 14-1067 Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Hodge Rep. Rosenthal	Date: April 25, 2014 Bill Status: Senate SVMA Fiscal Analyst: Kristen Koehler (303-866-4918)
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SHORT TITLE: COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH COUNTY OFFICER SALARIES

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

Summary of Legislation

This concurrent resolution refers a constitutional amendment to voters at the 2014 general election that, if approved, will give authority to each board of county commissioners to establish the salaries paid to its county officers, and directs the General Assembly to enact legislation creating citizens' commissions on county officer compensation in each county of the state.

The amendment provides that the statutorily set salaries in effect January 1, 2015, are the least amount that may be paid to county officers, and will continue to be in effect until the board acts to adjust salaries upward. County officers, other than county commissioners, may receive salary adjustments upward each fiscal year, but may only be reduced at the beginning of a term of office. In addition, all officials' salaries, except county commissioners, must be adjusted at the same point in time. County commissioners cannot have their salaries increased or decreased during their term of office. The citizen commissions must submit their first recommendations on county officer salaries to the boards on or before January 1, 2016, and every two years thereafter. The boards may follow the recommendations from the commissions.

Background

Pursuant to Section 15 of Article XIV of the Colorado Constitution, the salaries paid to county commissioners, sheriffs, treasurers, assessors, clerks, coroners, and surveyors are established in statute. Table 1 shows the salaries of these county officials under current law.

Table 1. County Officials' Salaries Under Current Law					
County Category	County Commissioners	Sheriffs	Treasurers, Assessors, Clerks	Coroners	Surveyors
Category I	\$87,300	\$111,100	\$87,300	\$87,300	\$5,500
Category II	72,500	87,700	72,500	44,200	4,400
Category III	58,500	76,000	58,500	33,100	3,300
Category IV	49,700	66,600	49,700	22,100	2,200
Category V	43,800	49,100	43,800	9,900	1,100
Category VI	39,700	46,500	39,700	9,000	1,000

State Expenditures

Subject to approval by the voters, this resolution will increase workload beginning in FY 2014-15. By requiring the General Assembly to enact legislation during the 2015 Legislative Session establishing Citizens' Commissions on County Officer Compensation, it is expected that workload will increase to legislative service agencies for research and drafting of such legislation. Any increase in workload as a result of this requirement is anticipated to be minimal and will not require an increase in appropriations.

Election Expenditure Impacts (For Informational Purposes Only)

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 2 below identifies the anticipated costs for the 2014 Blue Book.

Table 2. Cost to Produce and Distribute the 2014 Blue Book to All Registered Voter Households	
Printing	\$450,000
Postage	\$450,000
Translation	\$15,000
Newspaper Publication (English & Spanish)	\$400,000
Total Cost (12 issues)	\$1,315,000
Average Cost per Issue	\$109,583

Local Government Impact

Upon voter approval, counties may experience increased costs to provide higher salaries for county officers, and for other expenses and workload increases associated with supporting the citizens' commissions and preparing salary recommendations for the boards. Increases in salary are dependent on the decisions of the board of county commissioners; however, costs associated with supporting the citizen commissions may not be elective and are dependent on subsequent legislation enacted by the General Assembly establishing these commissions.

Effective Date

The amendment proposed by the resolution will take effect upon approval by voters at the 2014 general election.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Legislative Council

Local Affairs