

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

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0255	Date: March 21, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Sonnenberg	Bill Status: House SVMA
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SHORT TITLE: ALTER NUMBER & COMPOSITION REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Revenue			
State Expenditures			<u>\$604,811</u>
General Fund			604,811
FTE Position Change			
Appropriation Required: None.			

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

Summary of Legislation

The concurrent resolution refers a constitutional amendment to voters at the 2014 general election that, if approved, will allocate one state representative in the Colorado House of Representatives to each county. State House districts boundaries will be set along county lines and the number of state representative will be equal to the number of counties in the state. The change in state House districts will take effect on January 10, 2017, if approved by voters. State Senate districts are not affected by the resolution.

Background

Currently, Colorado has 65 state House districts, which are determined by the Colorado Reapportionment Commission following the decennial census. State House districts currently are drawn so that the population in each district is as equal as possible, with the most populous and least populous districts in the state not allowed to differ by more than five percent. Currently, there are 64 counties in the state.

State Expenditures

The resolution increases costs in the Legislative Department by \$604,811 per year beginning in FY 2016-17. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are from higher member travel and per diem reimbursements due to an increase in the percentage of legislators from outside the Denver-metro area. Table 1 and the discussion below provide more information on the costs and impacts of the bill.

Assumptions. The fiscal note assumes that the current policies of the General Assembly for legislator per diem and travel expenses will continue. Thus, costs are based on the following assumptions:

- the legislature is in session for 140 days per year, including 120 days for the regular session and 20 days for special sessions;
- metro area legislators receive per diem of \$45 per day in session;
- non-metro area legislators receive per diem of \$189 per day in session;
- metro area legislators are reimbursed for 31 miles of travel each day of session at a rate of \$0.50 per mile (\$15.50 per day);
- non-metro area legislators are reimbursed for 251 miles of travel one time per week at a rate of \$0.50 per mile (\$125.50 per week); and
- legislator salary is \$30,000 per year.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HCR 14-1001 - FY 2016-17				
Cost Components	Change in Members	Frequency	Rate	Cost
Legislator Per Diem (Metro)	(32)	140	\$45.00	(\$201,600)
Legislator Per Diem (Non-Metro)	31	140	\$189.00	\$820,260
Legislator Travel Reimbursement (Metro)	(32)	140	\$15.50	(69,440)
Legislator Travel Reimbursement (Metro)	31	22	\$125.50	85,591
Legislator Salary	(1)	1	\$30,000.00	(30,000)
TOTAL				\$604,811

Legislator salary and per diem. As shown in Table 1, costs for legislator salary, per diem, and travel reimbursement will increase under the resolution by a total of \$604,811 beginning at the 2017 legislative session in FY 2016-17. Currently, the House of Representatives has 39 metro area legislators and 26 non-metro area legislators. Under county-based districts, there will likely be 7 metro area legislators and 57 non-metro legislators, resulting in a decrease of 32 metro area legislators and an increase of 31 non-metro legislators. One house district will be eliminated, as there are only 64 counties.

Reapportionment costs. The resolution will decrease costs in the Legislative Department every ten years for the operation of the reapportionment commission. Costs will next be incurred by the legislature for this purpose in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. Because reapportionment of state Senate districts must still be conducted, many of the costs of the commission for holding public hearings, staff support, and information technology will still occur, even without House district reapportionment. Any savings under the resolution, if approved by voters, will be addressed through the annual budget process and any implementing legislation prior to the reapportionment process following the 2020 census. Costs for reapportionment following the 2010 census were \$310,405 and 0.4 FTE in FY 2010-11 and \$599,611 and 2.6 FTE in FY 2011-12.

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

Table 1. 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

If approved by voters, county clerks will have a one-time increase in workload in 2016 associated with redrawing districts and precincts to reflect county-based state House districts. In subsequent elections, some county clerks may have savings for printing and ballot design, as they would have fewer versions of ballots within highly populated counties since no county would have more than one state representative. Overall, the workload increase and cost savings for county clerks under the resolution are expected to be minimal.

Effective Date

The amendment proposed by the resolution will take effect on January 10, 2017, if approved by voters at the 2014 general election. The fiscal note assumed that the 2016 election for state representatives would be conducted using the district boundaries taking effect on this date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Council

Office of Legislative Legal Services

County Clerks