

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0885	Date: February 19, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Grantham; Lundberg Rep. Szabo; Murray	Bill Status: Senate SVMA
	Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

SHORT TITLE: SUSPEND UNTIL 2016 HOUSE BILL 13-1303 PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Potential workload increase.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill suspends the provisions of House Bill 13-1303 until January 1, 2016. Some of the major provisions in HB13-1303 that will be suspended include, among other things:

- election day voter registration;
- elimination of precinct polling places and the creation of voter service and polling centers;
- mail ballots being mailed to all voters;
- elimination of inactive-failed to vote (I-FTV) voter status; and
- changing the state residency requirement to 22 days and eliminating precinct and district residency requirements.

With HB 13-1303 suspended, county clerks will be required to operate precinct polling places and send ballots to only voters requesting a mail ballot. A voter must register to vote at least 29 days prior to an election and must have lived in both the state and the precinct where he or she intends to vote for at least 30 days. The bill will apply to general, primary, odd-year, coordinated, special legislative, recall, and congressional vacancy election held in 2014 and 2015 after the effective date of this bill.

State Expenditures

The bill may result in a small workload increase in the Secretary of State's Office, which may be offset by other savings. Overall, costs in the Secretary of State's Office are not expected to change significantly with a suspension of HB13-1303, as many tasks outlined in the fiscal note for HB13-1303 must continue in order to ensure that HB 13-1303 will be fully implemented in 2016. For example, modifications to the statewide voter registration database (SCORE) must continue in order to ensure full functionality by 2016.

The Secretary of State's Office may also experience an increase in costs and workload to modify procedures and systems to account for the suspension of HB13-1303. These costs may be offset by small savings from extending the implementation or delaying certain parts of the HB13-1303 implementation. At this time, no adjustment in appropriations is required.

Other agencies, including the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Health and Environment, will have a small, temporary decrease in workload from postponing the data sharing requirements under HB 13-1303. These agencies send information on deaths and incarcerations to the Secretary of State's Office in order to check voter eligibility in SCORE.

Local Government Impact

The bill is expected to temporarily increase costs to most counties. These costs include:

- obtaining or continuing the use of polling place equipment that was phased out with the shift to the mail ballot model enacted by HB13-1303;
- mailing to voters to explain changes in the election format; and
- modifying training material for election workers and conducting training.

All counties will have savings for postage and envelopes from mailing fewer ballots to voters. Generally, costs for counties under the suspension will be greater than the potential savings from the reduced use of mail ballots.

A small number of counties that indicated increased net costs under HB13-1303 may incur savings under the suspension, assuming they still have polling place equipment available to revert back to a precinct-based election model. These savings depend on the extent to which counties reduce the use of early voting centers in their county compared to the required number of voter service and polling centers required under HB13-1303.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, and applies to elections conducted between the effective date of the bill and January 1, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

State
Revenue
Municipalities

Corrections
Counties
Special Districts

Public Health and Environment
County Clerks