

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0667	Date: January 22, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Roberts	Bill Status: Senate SVMA
Rep. Coram; Labuda	Fiscal Analyst: Kristen Koehler (303-866-4918)

SHORT TITLE: ELECT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY DISTRICTS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload impact. See State Expenditures Section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows the voters of a county with a population of less than 70,000 people to change the method by which county commissioners are elected so that each commissioner is elected exclusively by the voters residing within that district. To change the method of electing commissioners, the bill authorizes the board of county commissioners to refer the question to the voters. Alternatively, qualified electors may file a petition to have the question placed on the county-wide ballot at the next general election. Any change to the method of election applies to the terms of the newly elected commissioners. The terms of presently elected commissioners remain unchanged.

Background

In counties with a population of less than 70,000 people, the board of county commissioners is comprised of three elected officials, each representing a geographic district of approximately one-third of the county's population. Based on 2010 Census data, 53 of Colorado's 64 counties have a population of less than 70,000 people.

State Expenditures

The Division of Local Government, within the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), may experience a minimal increase in workload as a result of the bill. The division provides guidance to a county in evaluating the impacts of using a new election method, as it currently does to assist counties in evaluating populations for redistricting efforts. Any activities associated with this advisory role is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriation.

Local Government Impact

The bill allows for the use of an alternative election method, but does not require the current method to be changed. It is unknown whether costs to produce a ballot to elect county commissioners by district will be greater than, equal to, or less than the cost of producing ballots under the current method. Changes in election costs may vary by county. Costs associated with placing the question on the ballot to change the election procedures and any additional costs to sort and count ballots in a manner that is different than current practice is assumed to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 6, 2014, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 7, 2014, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Local Affairs

Cities and Counties

Clerk and Recorders