

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0013
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Balmer
 Rep. Singer

Date: February 4, 2013
Bill Status: Senate SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE OPTIONAL USE OF APPROVAL VOTING METHODS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed, and applies to elections held on or after November 1, 2013.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: Potential costs. See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows local governments to use approval voting in nonpartisan elections. Approval voting is a system of voting in which voters may vote for as many candidates as they choose and the winner is the candidate with the most votes. The Secretary of State is required to adopt rules by October 1, 2013, outlining the rules and procedures for elections using approval voting.

State Expenditures

The Secretary of State will have a small increase in workload to adopt rules for approval voting. This rule making is not expected to require a significant amount of staff time and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

Local governments that choose to conduct approval voting will likely have costs to adjust vote tabulating machines and software, notify the public of the change in voting system, and other costs. Costs will vary based on the size of the county, with small counties having costs of about \$15,000 and large counties have costs of approximately \$200,000. The use of approval voting is optional, so only jurisdictions that opt to use approval voting will incur costs.

Departments Contacted

State Counties Municipalities Special Districts