

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1895-01
Bill No.: HB 867
Subject: Secretary of State: Elections, Advance Voting
Type: Original
Date: March 20, 2007

Bill Summary: Authorizes advance voting procedures and additional penalty provision relating to elections.

FISCAL SUMMARY

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
| General Revenue | (\$254,080) | (\$308,160) | \$0 |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund | (\$254,080) | (\$308,160) | \$0 |

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 10 pages.

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE | 0 | 0 | 0 |

☐ Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

☐ Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
| Local Government | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials of the **Office of the Secretary of State - Elections** assume this proposal requires the office to request funding for increased processing costs for local election authorities for operating satellite locations, including payment for election judges and the equipment necessary.

Officials cost estimates were established for the current process with assumptions of \$25,000 for an average salary for local election authorities, 7.5% absentee voting currently (based on 2004 General Election data), half an hour to process mail-in ballots, and 15 minutes to process walk-in ballots. This leads to a cost of \$6.01 per mail-in absentee ballot and \$3.01 walk-in absentee ballot.

Because the bill does not eliminate the notary requirement for absentee voting there should not be an increase in the number of voters using absentee voting or the processing time. The assumption is that the percentage of voters voting early would increase from 7.5% to 13.9%. The same estimates for the increase in the number of voters walking in to vote is used in this calculation as was used in 1829-01n from the 2005 legislative session. It is assumed that the processing time for walk-in ballots using the advance voting process would be reduced in half from 15 minutes to 7.5 minutes because much of the work of election officials would be eliminated for walk-in voting. The result of these assumptions is that the cost of processing mail-in absentee ballots is expected to remain at \$6.01 per ballot and the cost of processing walk-in advance voters is \$1.50 per ballot. However, the total cost of processing walk-in ballots will increase because the volume will increase.

The state would be responsible for paying the cost of increased advance voting ballots from 7.5% to 13.9% at federal elections. The legislation allows the local election authorities to designate other elections at which they use advance voting. However, since use of advance voting at non-federal elections is not mandated the costs to the local election authority for those elections would not be a mandated cost.

The bill provides for 40 satellite sites for Advance voting for 15 election authorities based on the 50,000 registered voter break point - St. Louis City (5), St. Louis County (6), Kansas City (4), Jackson County (4) and the counties of Cole (1), Buchanan (1), Franklin (1), Cass (1), Platte (1), Jasper (1), Boone (2), Clay (2), Jefferson (3), Greene (4), St. Charles (4).

ASSUMPTION (continued)

The fiscal note assumes that they will be staffed by four election judges paid \$9 per hour for the 107 hours that they will be open for advance voting - a total of \$154,080 per election. In addition, it is assumed that there would be a one-time equipment cost of \$2,500 to establish the satellite sites - a total of \$100,000 (40 sites times \$2,500 per site).

The effective date of the provisions is January 2008 so increased costs would occur to the state as follows:

FY 2008 - Presidential primary

FY 2009 - August 2008 primary election and November 2008 general election

Oversight notes that Section 115.276 subdivision 9 states that "all costs associated with the implementation of advance voting as authorized by this section shall be reimbursed from the general revenue of this state".

Officials of the **Office of State Courts Administrator** assume no fiscal impact to the Courts.

Officials of the **Office of Prosecution Services** assume no fiscal impact to their office or to County Prosecutors.

Officials of the **Department of Corrections** assume no fiscal impact.

Officials of the **St. Louis County Board of Elections Commission** stated that the following cost estimates are based on six satellite locations that would be reimbursed by the state. No costs for site rental are anticipated since we would hope to have access to County satellite locations, health clinics, park facilities, etc.

1ST YEAR RECURRING FIXED COSTS (Annual):

Labor

Twelve additional full-time employees (2 per site)

@ \$29,134 per year 349,608

Total benefits package for 12 full-time employees:

Social Security employer contribution 26,745

Long term disability 664

Life insurance 874

Medical insurance 34,017

Workmen's Comp 8,181

RWB:LR:OD (12/02)

ASSUMPTION (continued)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Retirement | 56,112 | |
| Unemployment | 804 | |
| Short term disability | 559 | |
| Sub total: | 127,956 | |
| Total 1st year annual costs for twelve new full-time employees: | | \$477,564 |

1ST YEAR RECURRING COSTS (presidential election year):
24 temporary employees (4 per site)
@ \$10 per hr. x 8 hrs. per day x 11 days for each election x four elections 84,480

Total 1st year intermittent costs (presidential election year only): \$84,480

NON-RECURRING COSTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Equipment | | |
| Twelve PCs @ \$1,000 each | 12,000 | |
| 48 DREs (eight per site) @ \$3,365 each | 161,520 | |
| Total non-recurring equipment costs: | | \$173,520 |

ANNUAL RECURRING COSTS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| Software License | | |
| 48 DREs @ \$159 each per year | | \$7,632 |

Officials of the **Platte County Board of Elections Commission** stated that estimated costs for advance voting would be as follows:

Officials assume there would be costs for elections in 2008- February 2008 Presidential Primary/August 2008 Primary/November 2008 General elections.

Officials assume they would have the following costs to initiate advance voting.

Office/Central Location Expenses:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 4 Election Judges @ \$100/each/day x 13 days of advance voting period | \$5,200.00 |
| 1 Touch Screen Tech @ \$100/each/day x 13 days of advance voting period | \$1,300.00 |
| FICA (7.65% x salaries) | \$497.25 |
| Workers Compensation Insurance | \$85.00 |

RWB:LR:OD (12/02)

ASSUMPTION (continued)

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Optical Scan Ballots 5,000 x \$0.30/each | \$1,500.00 |
| Shipping | \$100.00 |
| Provisional Ballots 200 x \$0.30/each | \$60.00 |
| Shipping (included in optical scan shipping amount above.) | |
| Sub-Total for one election: | \$8,742.25 |

Satellite Location Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 4 Election Judges @ \$100/each/day x 13 days of advance voting period | \$5,200.00 |
| 1 Touch Screen Tech @ \$100/each/day x 13 days of advance voting period | \$1,300.00 |
| FICA (7.65% x salaries) | \$497.25 |
| Workers Compensation Insurance | \$85.00 |
| Optical Scan Ballots 5,000 x \$0.30/each | \$1,500.00 |
| Shipping | \$100.00 |
| Provisional Ballots 200 x \$0.30/each | \$60.00 |
| Shipping (included in optical scan shipping amount above.) | |
| Office/location Rent and CAM fees for one month | \$7,000.00 |
| Utilities for one month (Gas/Electric/Water) | \$450.00 |
| Telephone setup/monthly fee | \$275.00 |
| DSL Line setup/monthly fee | \$325.00 |
| <u>Sub-Total</u> for Satellite location for one election: | \$16,792.25 |

Officials of the **Texas County Clerk's Office** assumes the proposal would not have a negative effect on their county as long as costs were reimbursed.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| One-Time Expenses: | |
| Workstation & Screen | \$4,000.00 |
| Printer | \$2,500.00 |
| Cables | \$100.00 |
| <u>Sub-Total</u> for Satellite location one time expenses: | \$6,600.00 |

Total for 2008 for 3 federal/state elections: **\$83,203.50**

Total for 2008 if County chooses to conduct advance voting for all
Non-federal/state elections in 2008: **\$134,272.50**

2009 - See above for details but Feb. 2009; April 2009; June 2009; August 2009; and November
2009 - **\$127,672.50**

2010 - See above for details but will have 2 federal/state elections: August 2010 and November
2010 that would be mandated for advance voting period. **\$127,672.50**

Officials of the **Kansas City Board of Elections Commission** assumes this proposal would have
some mandated additional costs. Officials estimate additional costs at \$25,000 per election.

Officials of the **Clay County Board of Elections Commission** stated the only added costs they
would realize would be 120 hours of labor at \$10 per hour (\$1200 per federal election) and
whatever lease space and related utilities for their third location would be. Officials assume costs
would be minimal.

Oversight assumes costs would only occur for all federal elections. The state would reimburse
local authorities for voting period beginning the third Wednesday before the election and ending
the Wednesday before the election. The state would pay for satellite voting locations, election
judges, and equipment.

Oversight will use cost estimates submitted by the Secretary of State for the cost estimates of
this proposal on a statewide basis.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Oversight will show costs reimbursement to only those election authorities that have registered voting populations greater than 50,000. Jurisdictions with less than 50,000 registered voters are not required to provide satellite sites for advanced voting. **Oversight** assumes counties with less than 50,000 registered voters would have no costs, voters would vote at one central location.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| <u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u> | FY 2008 (10 Mo.) | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|

GENERAL REVENUE FUND

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| <u>Costs</u> - Secretary of State Reimburse costs of advance voting to certain local election authorities. | (\$254,080) | (\$308,160) | \$0 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO GENERAL REVENUE FUND | <u>(\$254,080)</u> | <u>(\$308,160)</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| <u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u> | FY 2008 (10 Mo.) | FY 2009 | FY 2010 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|

**CERTAIN COUNTIES LOCAL
ELECTION AUTHORITIES**

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| <u>Costs</u> - Certain Counties Election Authorities (Advance Voting) For additional judges, advertising, equipment, operating satellite locations. | (\$254,080) | (\$308,160) | \$0 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| <u>Transfer In</u> - From Secretary of State Reimbursement of advance voting costs. | <u>\$254,080</u> | <u>\$308,160</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning January 1, 2008, this bill allows voters to cast advance ballots starting on the third Wednesday before any election. Voters may always cast advance ballots at the central voting location; and voting will be allowed on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays until 12:00 p.m.

For federal elections, the election authorities must provide up to six satellite voting sites, with one satellite site established for every 50,000 voters. For other elections, the use of satellite sites is discretionary. Election authorities must provide information about the location of these satellite sites on their web site and at their offices and may publicize the location through other means. These satellite sites will be subject to the supervision of election judges with at least one judge from each major political party at each site.

Any voter casting more than one type of ballot during the same election will be guilty of an offense. The disclosure of voting lists containing the names of those using either advance ballots or absentee ballots to unauthorized persons will also be an offense. Persons voting by advance ballot will receive the same protections as those voting by absentee ballot.

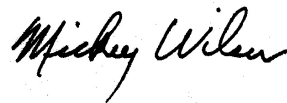
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State - Elections
Office of State Courts Administrator
Department of Corrections
Office of Prosecution Services
St. Louis County Board of Elections Commission
Kansas City Board of Elections Commission
Platte County Board of Elections Commission
Clay County Board of Elections Commission
Texas County Clerk

NOT RESPONDING

Office of Attorney General
St. Louis City Board of Elections Commission
Jackson County Board of Elections Commission
Boone County Clerk
Bates County Clerk
Butler County Clerk
Camden County Clerk
Carroll County Clerk
Cass County Clerk
Cooper County Clerk
Greene County Clerk
Laclede County Clerk
New Madrid County Clerk
Nodaway County Clerk
St. Charles County Elections Board
Montgomery County Clerk
Scotland County Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mickey Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
March 20, 2007