

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 1695-03  
Bill No.: HCS for HB 613  
Subject: Elections; Military Affairs; Secretary of State  
Type: Original  
Date: April 10, 2009

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Bill Summary: This proposal requires the Secretary of State to establish a method to  
allow members of the military and their families to vote on the Internet.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>
General Revenue	(Unknown greater than \$15,792)	(Unknown greater than \$15,792)	(Unknown greater than \$15,792)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>(Unknown greater than \$15,792)</b>	<b>(Unknown greater than \$15,792)</b>	<b>(Unknown greater than \$15,792)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 8 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Federal Funds	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

☐ 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).

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### Andrew Jackson Voting Restoration Act Provisions

In response to similar legislation filed this year, HB 173, the following local election authorities responded as follows:

Officials at the **PWSD#2 of St. Charles County** assume they would be required to pay for an election that might not otherwise be necessary costing the district \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year.

Officials at the **Hillsboro Fire Protection District** and the **Creve Coeur Fire District** assume an unknown cost for the elections.

Officials at the **Nixa Fire Protection District** assume the fiscal impact would be the cost paid for an election that would not be necessary because only one candidate filed for this position. The following expenses were paid by the district when more than one candidate was on the ballot and could be saved if only one candidate had been on the ballot:

1999	\$2,642
2001	\$2,611
2002	\$3,652
2009	\$5,000 (budgeted amount)

Officials at the **DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District** assume costs as follows:

2010	\$8000
2011	\$8,500
2012	\$9,000

Officials at the **Cass County** assume a cost of \$45,000 a year.

Officials at the **Taney County** assume an unknown cost for the system upgrades.

Officials at the **Buchanan County** assume additional costs of \$20,000 per year.

Officials at the **City of West Plains** assume an unknown costs for the additional elections.

**Oversight** assumes this proposal removes the provision that allows no election to be held when the number of candidates equal the number of seats to be filled. Oversight assumes by removing this provision, in nonpartisan elections or in any political subdivision or special district election

ASSUMPTION (continued)

the entity would have to hold the election, thereby generating election costs.

**Oversight** cannot determine the number of elections or their costs this proposal would affect. **Oversight** will show fiscal impact as unknown to certain political subdivisions, or special districts. Oversight assumes no state fiscal impact.

Military Voting Provisions

Officials at the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** are unable to determine a specific cost due to the limited data available for internet voting. Based on the research SOS has conducted, there are very few entities using similar technology. The two most prominent entities that provide internet voting are Australia and Okaloosa County, Florida.

Okaloosa County implemented a pilot project for overseas voters in 2008. This program cost over \$400,000 and had 93 voters use the system, at a cost of approximately \$4,300 per vote. In Australia, a system was implemented that cost approximately \$1.1 million. There were about 1,511 ballots cast using this system at \$728 per voter.

In the November 2008 general election, there were 7,912 Missouri overseas military ballots cast.

This bill requires SOS to provide voter education information to overseas voters. Based on the voter education information provided to overseas voters prior to the 2008 General election, this requirement could cost \$15,792.

\$1.05 per poster x 500=\$525

\$1.00 per mailer x 15,267 military and overseas voters =\$15,267

Officials at the **Missouri Veterans Commission, Department of Public Safety's Director's Office** and the **Office of the Adjutant General/Missouri National Guard** assume that there is no fiscal impact from this proposal.

Officials at the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume the impact of this bill would be in two areas: 1) local ballot tabulation software vendor would have to upgrade its software to interface with a state-approved internet voting software provider. This upgrade would probably be apportioned amongst that vendor's current Missouri client counties and boards; 2) there would be an additional level of coding involved in setting up ballots for those in federal service under this act. It is the experience of the Board of Elections that additional election coding of this nature is always extremely labor intensive.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** assumes that the Office of the Secretary of State could incur costs associated with establishing a system that allows members of the military to vote via the internet. Oversight assumes that those costs are unknown and would be paid by general revenue and federal funds. Oversight has shown the costs as unknown.

Bill as a Whole

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$2,500. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with the core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

**Oversight** assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process.

Officials at the **Cass County** assume increased costs due to internet voting and having elections when the number of candidates equal the number of seats. The county assumes a cost of \$300,000.

Officials at the **Platte County Board of Election Commission, City of Centralia, City of Kansas City** and the **St. Louis County** assume that there is no fiscal impact from this proposal.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2010 (10 Mo.)	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost</u> - Secretary of State voting via the internet	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
<u>Cost</u> - Secretary of State voter information	<u>(\$15,792)</u>	<u>(\$15,792)</u>	<u>(\$15,792)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(Unknown greater than \$15,792)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown greater than \$15,792)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown greater than \$15,792)</u></b>
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Cost</u> - Secretary of State voting via the internet	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2010 (10 Mo.)	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS</b>			
<u>Cost</u> - Certain Political Subdivisions and Special Districts election costs from requirement to hold election	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS</b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business</u>			

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

### FISCAL DESCRIPTION

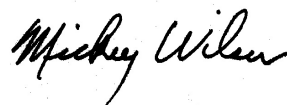
Currently, nonpartisan elections in political subdivisions and special districts, except for municipalities, may be canceled if the number of candidates filing for a position is equal to the number of positions available. This bill establishes the Andrew Jackson Vote Restoration Act which repeals these provisions and requires elections to always be held.

This bill requires the Secretary of State to establish and implement a secure and confidential system for allowing members of the armed forces, their spouses, and dependants to vote using the Internet. The program is exempt from the general requirements for automated voting systems in Chapter 115, RSMo.

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

Taney County  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Platte County Board of Election Commission  
Office of the Adjutant General/Missouri National Guard  
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission  
Cass County  
Department of Public Safety's Director's Office  
DeSoto Fire Protection District  
Nixa Fire Protection District  
Hillsboro Fire Protection District  
Creve Coeur Fire Protection District  
PWSD #2 of St. Charles County  
City of Centralia  
City of West Plains  
Buchanan County  
City of Kansas City



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