

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 3188-01  
Bill No.: HB 1355  
Subject: Elections; Secretary of State; General Assembly  
Type: Original  
Date: January 7, 2020

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions for ballot language.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Revenue	(Less than \$100,000)	\$0	(Less than \$100,000)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(Less than \$100,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(Less than \$100,000)</b>

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<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 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

☐ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### **ASSUMPTION**

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS), Missouri Senate, Attorney General's Office, and Missouri House of Representatives** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Officials from the **State Auditor's Office** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. Any impact can be absorbed through current appropriations.

Officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** assume if the proposal becomes law, the size of the ballot could increase, causing postage and printing costs to potentially increase from \$0 to (\$15,000) per election.

Officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections** assume the proposal has potential of doubling ballot costs per General and/or Special election conducted for the State of Missouri due to increase in words permitted in the question text. Additional words are likely to cause the current 19" two-sided ballot for General elections to run onto a second and/or third ballot page. All dependent upon the number of State questions/initiative/referendums placed on the General and/or Special election ballot.

Using the most recent Presidential Election ballot as an example, ballot costs were \$26,000. If we were to go to a second page, an additional \$26,000 in increased ballots costs would be incurred per General/Special election conducted for the State of Missouri.

Officials from the **St. Louis County Board of Elections** assume if the proposal lengthens a ballot to two pages, this could have a fiscal impact of about (\$100,000).

Officials from the **Jackson County Election Board** and **Madison County** both assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes that upon further inquiry of **Office of the Secretary of State**, the SOS stated printing costs are paid for by Local Election Authorities (LEAs), and may vary depending on which ballot vendor they use. So while the state's costs could increase to some degree, the SOS has a cost share in the primary and general elections where ballot measures would appear, the main increase in expenditure would go to the LEAs and the best estimate the SOS could give us was an "unknown" increase in ballot costs.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** assumes that the proposal will result in longer ballot language and could result in increased ballot printing and publication costs. Therefore, Oversight will reflect an unknown cost less than \$100,000 to the state and an unknown cost to local election authorities for each general election.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2021 (10 Mo.)	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Cost - SOS - printing costs for longer ballots &amp; additional publishing</u>	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u> )	<u>\$0</u>	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u> )
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b>(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)</b>
 <u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	 FY 2021 (10 Mo.)	 FY 2022	 FY 2023
<b>LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES</b>			
<u>Cost - printing cost for longer ballots</u>	( <u>Unknown</u> )	<u>\$0</u>	( <u>Unknown</u> )
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES</b>	<b>(<u>Unknown</u>)</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b>(<u>Unknown</u>)</b>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires ballot titles to be written in plain language and that the ballot contain a specified example of the effect of a "yes" or "no" vote on the ballot measure. Examples are limited to 50 words in the same way as ballot titles and may be litigated in the same manner as a ballot title challenge under Chapter 116, RSMo.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

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  
Missouri Senate  
Missouri House of Representatives  
Attorney General's Office  
State Auditor's Office  
Kansas City Election Board  
Platte County Board of Elections  
St. Louis County Board of Elections  
Jackson County Election Board  
Madison County



Julie Morff  
Director  
January 7, 2020



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
January 7, 2020