

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE and LOCAL
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT**

(replaces fiscal note dated January 29, 2013)

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0385

Date: February 25, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Singer
Sen. Kerr

Bill Status: House Appropriations

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TITLE: CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF A PERSON TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE IF THE PERSON HAS REACHED SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE BUT WILL NOT BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE BY THE DATE OF THE NEXT ELECTION.

| Fiscal Impact Summary | FY 2013-2014 | FY 2014-2015 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| State Revenue | | |
| State Expenditures | | |
| Cash Funds | | |
| Licensing Services Cash Fund | \$86,672 | |
| FTE Position Change | | |
| Effective Date: August 7, 2012, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. | | |
| Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: See State Appropriations sections. | | |
| Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section. | | |

The fiscal note has been revised to reflect reflects new information on IT contractor costs.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows a person who has reached 16 years of age, but who will not be 18 years of age by the date of the next election, to preregister to vote. Preregistered voters are then automatically registered upon turning 18 years of age. A person may preregister and make subsequent changes to his or her registration information on the Secretary of State's website.

State Expenditures

The bill is expected to increase costs on a one-time basis in the Department of Revenue (DOR) by \$86,672, and is expected to increase costs in the Department of State (SOS) by a minimal amount. These impacts are discussed below.

Department of Revenue and Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). The DOR requires one-time programming costs totaling \$86,672 to comply with the bill's provisions. Of this amount, \$31,672 is for reappropriation to the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), and \$55,000 is required for contract programming services. This amount has been updated to reflect the most recent written project quote from the contract IT vendor. The OIT is required to

update licensing and voting modules in the Driver's License System in use throughout the state. The voting module permits the Secretary of State to periodically extract data for purposes of keeping its roll of registered voters up to date.

The DOR uses a computer-generated form known as the declaration sheet to confirm information submitted by an applicant for a driver's license, provisional license, or state identification card. The reverse side of the declaration form is the Application for Voter Registration Form, which will require changes in order to comply with the bill. Necessary modification will cost \$55,000 in contract programming services. Verification of information required as part of the voter registration process will increase driver's license examination facilities' workload; however these increases will be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Secretary of State. The SOS will modify SCORE, the statewide voter registration system to implement the bill. These modifications will occur in conjunction with other scheduled changes and, as a result, will not result in an expenditure increase. Voter registration forms will need to be updated; however, unlike changes that require the form to be updated before an election, e.g., modification to the list of acceptable forms of identification required for voting, this change will be done in stages. As a result, the specific update required by the bill will be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

The bill will increase workload and costs for county clerks to preregister persons below the age of 18 who are not allowed to register under current law. These costs include staff time to process requests, printing and postage to send notification that a preregistration was accepted, and a likely increase in the number of address changes to be processed. The number of preregistrations or updates to registration through online voter registration from preregistrants that will be submitted is not known at this time, and specific costs to counties have not been estimated.

In addition, county clerks are required to finalize the registration of preregistered voters when they turn 18. The fiscal note assumes that the modifications to SCORE by the Department of State will allow county clerks to be automatically notified or to generate reports about preregistrations that require final action when voters turn 18 years old. Therefore, the costs to process and send out the final voter registration to preregistered voters is not expected to be significantly different than the current costs to process voter registrations for 18 year olds that register under current law.

State Appropriations

The Department of Revenue requires a total appropriations of \$86,672 in FY 2013-14 from the Licensing Services Cash Fund. Of the total, the Governor's Office of Information Technology is to receive \$31,672 as reappropriated funds.

Departments Contacted

State Revenue