

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

**LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0585  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Tate

**Date:** January 23, 2015  
**Bill Status:** House SVMA  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** COLLECTION OF MAIL BALLOTS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required: None.</b>		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill decreases the minimum number of voter service and polling centers (vote centers) required at general elections in large counties. Specifically, the minimum number of vote centers is reduced compared with current law as follows:

- during early voting, one vote center for every 75,000 active voters, rather than one for every 30,000 active voters; and
- on election day, one vote center for every 30,000 active voters, rather than one for every 15,000 active voters.

The bill does not change the requirement that all counties must operate at least one vote center. The bill also eliminates the requirement that mail ballot envelopes used in local government elections have a flap covering the signature.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill reduces costs for county clerks conducting general elections by lowering the minimum number of vote centers that must be staffed and operated. If county clerks operate the minimum number of vote centers as required by law, the fiscal note estimates that, in total, 11 large counties would be able to operate up to 49 fewer vote centers during early voting, and 13 large counties would be able to operate up to 85 fewer vote centers on election day, compared to the minimum under current law.

Each vote center is required to operate on 14 days during early voting and on election day. Based on the estimates above and assuming each vote center location costs \$1,000 per day, cost savings to county clerks could be up to approximately \$770,000 in general election years. However, potential savings from operating fewer vote centers will be offset to the extent county clerks choose to operate more than the minimum required under the bill. Eliminating ballot envelope flaps will also resulting in savings for jurisdictions conducting elections under the local government election code.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

State  
Special Districts

Counties  
Municipalities

County Clerks