


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0390

Date: June 6, 2011

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Casso

Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely

Fiscal Analyst: Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF AN UNAFFILIATED ELIGIBLE ELECTOR TO CAST THE PRIMARY BALLOT OF A POLITICAL PARTY WITHOUT DECLARING AFFILIATION TO THE POLITICAL PARTY.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds		
Department of State Cash Fund	\$245,560	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on February 9, 2011.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill permits eligible voters unaffiliated with a political party to vote in a primary election for candidates of a political party without declaring affiliation to that party. Unaffiliated voters may choose to cast the primary ballot of a particular party whether they are voting at a polling place or by mail ballot.

State Expenditures

The bill creates one-time costs of \$245,560 in the Department of State for FY 2011-12 to modify the statewide computerized voter registration system (SCORE). Updates to existing modules of SCORE are required to maintain correct ballot styles, ballot inventory, and election activity results. The department's contractual vendor for the SCORE system will be engaged for three months to make appropriate programming modifications at a total cost of \$245,560.

Local Government Impact

Costs for modification of voter affiliation records at the offices of county clerks are expected to increase for two reasons. First, county clerks may experience greater overall participation in primary elections. Second, the relative number of affiliated and unaffiliated voters may change without the affiliation requirement to participate in primary elections. The cost of additional data entry at clerk and recorder offices and additional election judges is unknown at this time.

This fiscal note assumes that county clerks will not be obligated to develop a primary election registration system at the local government level due to updates to the SCORE system.

State Appropriations

The Department of State requires a cash funds appropriation of \$245,560 for FY 2011-12 from the Department of State Cash Fund.

Departments Contacted

State