


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0421
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Harvey
 Rep. McNulty

Date: June 27, 2011
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF WHICH ELIGIBLE ELECTORS RESIDING IN A METROPOLITAN DISTRICT MUST AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE MAIL-IN BALLOTS FROM THE DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL FOR A METROPOLITAN DISTRICT MAIL BALLOT ELECTION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on April 20, 2011.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, metropolitan districts must distribute mail-in ballots to all voters who are on the list of permanent mail-in voters. The bill gives metropolitan districts with 10,000 or more registered voters the option to limit the distribution of mail-in ballots to only voters who:

- returned a mail-in ballot in one of the two most recent district elections; and
- requested a mail-in ballot for the district election.

If a voter is not mailed a ballot because he or she did not vote in the 2 most recent elections, the metropolitan district must mail a postcard informing the voter about the election and options to vote. The process for metropolitan districts with less than 10,000 registered voters remains the same as under current law. Metropolitan districts of 10,000 or more registered voters may also opt to follow current law.

Background

There are currently two metropolitan districts in the state with 10,000 or more registered voters, Pueblo West Metropolitan District and Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District. This bill applies only to metropolitan districts and not to the various other special districts in the state.

Local Government Impact

Metropolitan districts with more than 10,000 registered voters may have reduced costs for printing, collating, and mailing ballots if they opt to limit distribution of ballots. For example, the Highland Ranch Metropolitan District will save approximately \$30,000 or more in mail ballot costs in its next election if it limits mail ballot distribution as allowed under the bill. Savings could be offset by additional costs if limiting mail ballot distribution prompts the need for more polling place ballots and poll workers. Also, metropolitan districts could have costs to send postcards to inactive voters who are not sent mail ballots.

Departments Contacted

State