HB13-1067

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 13-0017	**Date:**	May 22, 2013
Prime Sponsor(s):	Rep. Murray; Labuda Sen. Roberts	**Bill Status:**	Postponed Indefinitely
		Fiscal Analyst:	Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE CANCELLATION OF A PRIMARY ELECTION WHERE A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY HAS NO CONTESTED RACES ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 10, 2013.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: Potential cost savings. See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires county clerks to cancel a major party's primary election if that party has no contested races on the primary election ballot on the 60th day before the primary election date. The cancellation is independent of the number of contested races in the primary election of any other major political party. Under current law, a primary election can only be cancelled if no major party has contested races.

Local Government Impact

The bill increases the likelihood that a primary election could be cancelled, which would result in cost savings to counties if such a cancellation were to occur. The bill allows one or more major party primary elections to be canceled, independently of other party primary elections, whereas current law only allows for cancellation of all major party primary elections if there are no contested races for all major parties.

If a party primary election is cancelled, savings to the counties depend on a number of factors, including the manner in which the election is conducted in that county, the population of the county, and the distribution of party registrations in the county. For example, if a large Front Range county that conducts a mail ballot election cancelled the primary election of the largest political party

in that county, it would result in savings of more than $160,000 from reduced printing, posting, and ballot processing costs. In that same county, cancelling the smaller major party primary would have resulted in lower savings, as there are fewer ballots involved. Counties that conduct polling place primary elections will have lower savings, given that fixed polling place costs will still be incurred, assuming at least one party's primary election is conducted.

Departments Contacted

State	Counties	County Clerks