



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB16-055

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0574
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Grantham
Rep. Moreno

Date: January 27, 2016
Bill Status: Senate Agriculture
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ELECTION PROCEDURES

Summary of Legislation

Current law allows cooperative electric associations (CEAs) to exempt themselves from regulation by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies and operate solely under the control of their elected board of directors. CEAs can contract with an independent third party to collect and count the ballots for board elections. Mailed ballots must include a secrecy sleeve or inner envelope and must be mailed directly to the CEA.

This bill allows ballots to be mailed directly to the third party and states that a mail ballot sent in a signed envelope without the secrecy sleeve or inner envelope is valid and must be counted. The third party is required to deliver the ballots to the CEA under seal promptly after the count. Upon request of any candidate, the ballots must be made available to the candidate for inspection.

Assessment

The bill establishes statutory requirements for CEA board elections. Since CEAs are exempt from state regulation, the bill does not impact workload for the PUC or any other state agency. Thus, the bill does not affect state or local revenue or expenditures and is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. It applies to CEA board elections conducted on or after the effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Office of Information Technology

Regulatory Agencies

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: www.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.