



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB17-1163

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0126 **Date:** February 27, 2017
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Everett **Bill Status:** House SVMA
 Sen. Neville T.; Marble **Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

BILL TOPIC: CANDIDATE PETITION FILING DEADLINES & SIGNATURES

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>\$73,490</u>	See State Expenditure section.
Cash Funds	72,249	
Centrally Appropriated Costs	1,241	
FTE Position Change	0.1 FTE	
Appropriation Required: \$72,249 - Department of State (FY 2017-18).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing expenditure impact in general election years.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill changes the time frame for when various candidate petitions must be filed and the number of signatures that must be collected. Specifically, candidate petition deadlines are changed:

- from 85 days before the primary election to 100 days to designate party candidates and for petitions to nominate minor political party candidates;
- from 117 days before the general election to 100 days to nominate unaffiliated candidates;
- from 20 days to 34 days after the date of the order issued by the governor for unaffiliated candidate petitions for a congressional vacancy;
- from 67 days before the school board election to 81 days for petitions to nominate school board candidates; and
- from 71 days before the municipal election to 85 days for petitions to nominate municipal candidates in coordinated elections.

This bill also changes the number of signatures required for partisan office candidate petitions for minor political party and unaffiliated candidates. For State Senate, the number of required signatures is changed from 600 signatures or 2 percent to 1,000 signatures or 30 percent of the votes cast in the senate district in the most recent election. For State House of Representatives the number of required signatures is changed from 400 signatures or 2 percent to 1,000 signatures or 30 percent of the votes cast in the house district in the most recent election.

Assumptions

Currently, the Department of State contracts with the Integrated Document Solutions (IDS) group in the Department of Personnel and Administration to verify candidate petition signatures. This bill changes the deadline for filing unaffiliated candidate petitions from 117 days before the general election to 100 days. Under current law, the Department of State is required to provide notification of signature sufficiency for unaffiliated candidate petitions 96 days prior to the general election. This leaves only four days following the new deadline for IDS to verify the petition signatures. Given the condensed time frame and because IDS is located in Pueblo, the fiscal note assumes that signature verification of unaffiliated candidate petitions will be performed in-house by the Department of State using temporary staff.

State Expenditures

For FY 2017-18 only, this bill increases Department of State costs by \$73,490 and 0.1 FTE. This bill also impacts costs in FY 2018-19 and in each general election year thereafter. These costs are shown in Table 1 and discussed below.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HB17-1163	
Cost Components	FY 2017-18
Personal Services	\$4,599
FTE	0.1 FTE
Computers	67,650
Temporary Staff	0
Overtime	0
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	1,241
TOTAL	\$73,490

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Computers and setup. For FY 2017-18, because the Department of State does not currently use temporary staff to perform signature verification, \$67,650 is needed to purchase 55 computers. In order to setup the computers for signature verification, 0.1 FTE is needed for 208 hours of IT Technician time. Computer and IT Technician costs are needed in FY 2017-18 to allow for enough time to purchase the computers and get them ready for verifying petition signatures in FY 2018-19.

Temporary staff. For FY 2018-19, and in future general election years, the Department of State requires 1,296 hours of temporary staff for 3 days to verify unaffiliated candidate petition signatures and staff overtime to supervise these positions, which results in a total cost of \$21,936. Currently, this signature verification is performed by IDS using reappropriated Department of State Cash Funds. With this work being performed in-house, the amount of money reappropriated to IDS will decrease. This adjustment will be handled through the annual budget process.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under HB17-1163	
Cost Components	FY 2017-18
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$829
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	412
TOTAL	\$1,241

Local Government Impact

This bill increases local government workload by a minimal amount to adjust candidate petition receipt deadlines and associated policies, procedures, and forms. These changes will affect municipal and county clerks conducting elections for municipal offices and school board members respectively.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2017-18, this bill requires an appropriation of \$72,249 from the Department of State to the Department of State Cash Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Clerks	Counties	Information Technology
Local Affairs	Municipalities	Personnel and Administration
School Districts	Secretary of State	