



Colorado
Legislative
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SB17-071

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0697
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Tate

Date: January 27, 2017
Bill Status: Senate SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

BILL TOPIC: VOTER SERVICE & POLLING CENTER EARLY VOTING GENERAL ELECTION

Summary of Legislation

For counties with at least 25,000 active voters (large counties), this bill reduces the number of voter service and polling centers (vote centers) required during the first seven days of early voting. During this time, large counties must operate at least one vote center for every 75,000 active voters, rather than one for every 30,000 voters as required under current law. This bill also eliminates the requirement that vote centers be open on the first Saturday of the early voting period. The requirement for operating vote centers in the second half of early voting is unchanged by the bill.

Background

Under current law, vote centers must at a minimum be open in all counties during the 15 days prior to election day, except on Sundays. Large counties must have one vote center for every 30,000 active voters during the early voting period. Small counties (less than 25,000 active voters) must have at least one vote center per county. During the 2016 general election 16 counties had more than 25,000 active voters. This fiscal note assumes 17 counties will have over 25,000 active voters during the next general election in 2018.

Local Government Impact

This bill reduces costs for county clerks conducting general elections by decreasing the required number of vote centers. The average cost to operate a vote center is approximately \$1,500 per day. Savings are generated from paying fewer election judges and reduced rental facility and supply costs for each day that the vote center is not required to operate. For small counties the closing of the vote centers on the first Saturday of early voting is expected to generate an estimated \$70,500 in statewide savings based on 47 counties being able to close one vote center. For large counties, this bill is expected to generate an estimated \$591,000 in statewide savings. This is based on the required number of vote centers in 17 counties being reduced by 59 vote centers during the first week of early voting (five days, Monday through Friday) and the closing of 99 vote centers on the first Saturday of early voting. To the extent that a county clerk chooses to operate more than the minimum number of required vote centers, this estimated total savings of \$661,500 will be reduced.

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. It applies to elections conducted on or after this date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Local Affairs

County Clerks
Secretary of State

Information Technology