



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 19-1243

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0283
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Coleman
Sen. Moreno

Date: September 4, 2019
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
Fiscal Analyst: Vanessa Reilly | 303-866-4753
Vanessa.Reilly@state.co.us

Bill Topic: 16-YEAR-OLDS VOTING SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:**
- State Revenue
 - State Expenditure
 - State Transfer
 - TABOR Refund
 - Local Government
 - Statutory Public Entity

This bill would have allowed preregistered minors ages 16 and 17 to vote on school district contests and ballot measures. The bill would have resulted in one-time costs for computer programming and form reprinting, and to the Department of State to reimburse counties for ongoing, periodic election costs.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation was required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1243**

		FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue		-	-	-
Expenditure	General Fund	-	\$388,955	\$133,650
Transfer		-	-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill would have allowed minors ages 16 and 17 who were preregistered to vote in elections for the state board of education, school district officers, and on referred measures regarding mill levies, property taxes, school district organization, school district organization plan, and school district financial obligation or indebtedness. It also would have allowed preregistrants to circulate and sign petitions to nominate or recall a school district officer, or to initiate an election under Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes. The bill required the state to reimburse counties for the direct costs associated with ballots sent to preregistered minors for any coordinated election, and also required the General Assembly to make a General Fund appropriation to the Department of State to cover the costs of implementing the bill. Lastly, the bill specified that any election offense alleged to have been committed by a preregistered minor could not be transferred to district court but would have had to remain under the jurisdiction of juvenile court.

State Expenditures

This bill would have increased state General Fund expenditures in the Department of State by \$455,780 in FY 2020-21 and \$66,825 in FY 2021-22. Costs included computer programming, form reprinting, and reimbursement to counties for the costs associated with providing ballots to 16 and 17 year old voters, as shown in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 19-1243

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of State		
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$28,355	
Computer Software and Programming	\$360,600	
County Reimbursement		\$133,650
Total Cost	\$388,955	\$133,650

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

Forms. The bill required a change to the self-affirmation on the standard voter registration form. The standard cost to reprint the form will be \$28,355.

Petition review software. The bill also required the Department of State to update the petition-review software it uses to recognize preregistrant voters in the voter registration database as eligible petition signers for state board of education candidate petitions. This software is currently provided by a vendor and the Department estimates the cost to update the software is \$15,000.

Voter registration system modifications. Most significantly, the bill would have required computer programming changes to the state's voter registration database and web-based portal, (SCORE and WebSCORE) and to the online voter registration (OLVR) application to generate new ballot styles, identify and provide 16 and 17 year old voters this new ballot style, provide notifications to the new voter class, and provide reports. Programming costs for contract staff

are calculated at 3,200 hours at a rate of \$108 per hour, for a cost of \$345,600. Cost and workload estimates are based on the similar system changes that were required as a result of the passage of Propositions 107 and 108.

County reimbursement. The bill required the General Assembly to make a General Fund appropriation to the Department of State for the costs incurred under the bill, including amounts that the Department is required to reimburse to counties for preregistrant mailing costs. The County Clerk's Association estimates mailing costs at \$2.97 per preregistrant. According to the Department of State, there are 43,183 current preregistrants in SCORE. Though many of the current preregistrations will be 18 years old or older by the bill's effective date of January 1, 2021, this fiscal note assumes at least 45,000 16 and 17 year old minors will be preregistered and therefore eligible to receive a ballot in 2021. Because school district elections are generally held as part of a November general election or coordinated election, the anticipated reimbursement is shown in FY 2021-22.

Local Government

The bill would have increased costs and workload for County Clerk and Records offices. Specifically, they would have had costs for producing and mailing ballots to 16 and 17 year old voters, training staff on the new procedures, and other related tasks. Counties would have been reimbursed by the Department of State as described above.

Effective Date

This bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 2, 2019.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Human Services
Revenue

County Clerks
Judicial
School Districts

Education
Local Affairs
Secretary of State