



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-037**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0472  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Fenberg

**Date:** January 20, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Senate SVMA  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

**BILL TOPIC:** MEASURE VOTER SERVICE & POLLING CENTERS WAIT TIMES

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Workload increase.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing workload increase in general election years.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires that counties with at least 25,000 active voters measure the wait time to vote or receive a ballot and the arrival rate of voters at each voter service and polling center (vote center) during each general election. Data collected must be submitted to the Department of State which is authorized to create rules setting measurement and reporting criteria as well as reporting deadlines.

**Background**

Under current law, vote centers must be open a minimum of 15 days prior to election day, except on Sundays for all general elections. Large counties (>25,000 active voters) must have at least one vote center for every 30,000 active voters during the early voting period and at least one for every 15,000 active voters on election day. Counties may operate more vote centers if they choose.

For the 2016 general election, 16 of the state's 64 counties had at least 25,000 active voters and there were 196 vote centers in operation. The next general election will be held in 2018 and it is assumed that 17 counties will have at least 25,000 active voters and a minimum of 199 vote centers will be in operation. Data collection is required hourly at each vote center under this bill.

**State Expenditures**

This bill increases workload in the Department of State. It is assumed that the Department of State will establish reporting criteria and deadlines in FY 2017-18 and its workload will increase

to create rules and to communicate them to the counties. This workload is one-time and can be completed as part of the departments existing rule-making activities. Beginning in FY 2018-19 and continuing in each general election year, Department of State workload will increase by a minimal amount to receive the vote center data collected by the counties. It is expected that data will be submitted electronically and no change in appropriations is required.

### **Local Government Impact**

During general election years, this bill increases county workload and costs in counties that have at least 25,000 active voters. Workload and costs are increased to collect vote center data hourly and submit it to the Department of State. This increase in workload and costs will vary by county depending on the number of vote centers and the methods used to collect this data. During an election many counties hire election judges to assist with ballot processing, voter registration, and other election related functions. Election judge pay ranges from \$11-16 an hour. This fiscal note assumes counties will hire one election judge per vote center and that vote centers will be open at least 119 hours during the election, including the early voting period and election day. The hiring of an election judge for the purpose of vote center data collection will cost between \$1,309 and \$1,904 per vote center. Assuming at least 199 vote centers in 17 counties, the minimum statewide local government impact will range from \$260,491 to \$378,896.

### **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 all elections conducted on or after November 1, 2018.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Information Technology

Clerks  
Secretary of State

Local Affairs