



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB17-1088

**REVISED
FISCAL NOTE**

(replaces fiscal note dated February 7, 2017)

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0489
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Neville P.

Date: March 27, 2017
Bill Status: House Appropriations
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

BILL TOPIC: VOTER SIGNATURE VERIFICATION & ELECTION PETITION PILOT

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020
State Revenue			
State Expenditures		up to \$54,380	up to \$19,741
Cash Funds	Workload increase.	up to 54,380	up to \$19,741
Appropriation Required: None.			
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing state expenditure increase.			

Summary of Legislation

This bill, *as amended by the House State Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee*, requires the Department of State to compare each signature on a candidate petition with the signature stored in the statewide voter registration system (SCORE) for any candidate petition filed for an election conducted on or after January 1, 2018. Under current law, voter information including address and voter eligibility is validated, but signatures are not compared.

This bill also allows an employee of the Department of State to notify a candidate within three days of identifying a signature deficiency on a candidate petition. A candidate may cure the signature deficiency by providing a statement signed by the voter whose signature is deficient, along with a copy of the voter's identification to the Department of State within three days of receiving the notice. This bill also allows a circulator affidavit deficiency to be corrected by a candidate within five days of receiving notice of a deficiency by providing a new, corrected circulator affidavit to the Department of State.

Background

The Department of State uses the Integrated Document Solutions (IDS) group in the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) to validate candidate and issue petitions. Petitions are required to be validated within 30 days of being filed. When factoring in administrative time IDS has 25 days to complete the validation. Temporary staff are used to meet the workload demand within this time period.

State Expenditures

This bill increases state agency costs annually beginning in FY 2018-19 by up to \$54,380 and up to \$19,741 in FY 2019-20. Workload is increased beginning in FY 2017-18. These impacts are described below.

Integrated Document Solutions. Beginning in FY2018-19, this bill increases IDS costs in the DPA. This is for temporary staff to review and verify voter information and signatures on candidate petitions for the Department of State. The requirement to verify each signature increases the amount of time necessary to complete the verification by 127 percent. This requires up to 3,320 additional temporary staff hours (16.6 temporary staff for a 25-day period) at a rate of \$16.38 per hour for an estimated cost increase of up to \$54,380. These costs are paid using funds reappropriated to the DPA from the Department of State. FY 2018-19 is a general election year and temporary staff needs are contingent on the number of candidate petitions filed and number of signatures in the petitions. Costs in non-general election years, such as FY 2019-20, will be less and are estimated to increase by up to \$19,741, but are also contingent on the number of candidate petitions filed and number of signatures in the petitions. Appropriate spending authority will be sought by the DPA in future years through the annual budget process.

Department of State. This bill increases Department of State workload in FY 2017-18 to promulgate rules regarding candidate petition signature verification and the curing of deficiencies in candidate petitions and circulator affidavits. Workload is also increased in FY 2017-18 and beyond to notify candidates of petition or circulator affidavit deficiencies. This workload increase can be accomplished within the department's existing rulemaking duties.

Office of Administrative Courts. This bill potentially increases workload in the Office of Administrative Courts (OAC) for administrative law judges to hear cases related to candidate petitions. It is believed that any increase in workload resulting from this bill can be accomplished within the existing resources and additional appropriations will be requested through the annual budget process, if needed.

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 and Local Government Contacts

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