



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 23-0721	Date:	June 20, 2023
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Holtorf Sen. Pelton B.	Bill Status:	Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic:	MODIFY CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN SMALL COUNTIES
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Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill would have allowed county clerks of small counties to apply to the Secretary of State to reduce the required number of voter services and polling centers, and would have permitted clerks to appoint staff members as election judges. The bill would have minimally increased state workload and may decrease local government expenditure on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary:	No appropriation would have been required.
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Fiscal Note Status:	The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee on February 27, 2023; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.
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Summary of Legislation

Under current law counties with between 10,000 and 37,500 active electors must have at least one voter service and polling center open 15 days prior to the election, and at least three centers open on election day. This bill allows the county clerk of counties with less than 37,500 voters to apply to the Secretary of State to reduce the number of centers. The application must provide evidence that the fewer polling centers will meet the needs of the county.

The bill also allows the county clerk of a small county to appoint a staff member to serve as an election judge.

State Expenditures

The bill will minimally increase workload in the Department of State on an ongoing basis to review and consider applications from county clerks. The bill applies to 51 counties; however, it is unknown how many will submit an application. Applications will be considered along with annual election plans submitted by county clerks, and any increase in workload for the department's elections division is absorbable under current appropriations.

Local Government

The bill will decrease expenditure for small counties if applications to reduce the number of operational voter service and polling centers are approved. The exact savings will depend on the number and length of time that the counties are permitted to operate fewer voter service and polling centers prior to an election.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

County Clerks

Secretary of State