



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-037

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

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

Date: May 22, 2017
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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BILL TOPIC: MEASURE VOTER SERVICE & POLLING CENTERS WAIT TIMES

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

Note: This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires counties with at least 25,000 active voters to 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 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 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, the methods used to collect this data, and whether or not the county is already tracking vote center wait times. During an election many counties hire election judges to assist with ballot processing, voter registration, and other election related functions. 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. Election judge pay ranges from \$11-16 an hour, therefore 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.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on January 25, 2017.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Information Technology

Clerks
Secretary of State

Local Affairs