



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0470 Date: February 7, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Liston Bill Status: House SVMA
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Bill Topic: NONRESIDENT ELECTORS AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure (minimal), State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

This bill expands the definition of eligible elector and allows individuals who do not reside in Colorado to vote in a special district election if they own property within the district. It increases state and local government workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, a person may only vote in a special district election if he or she is a registered Colorado voter and is either a resident of the special district or the person or his or her spouse owns property within the district. This bill expands the definition of eligible elector to allow individuals who do not reside in Colorado to vote in a special district election if they own property within the district.

This bill also allows special district boards to select additional non-voting board members by a majority vote. These board members must not reside in the state, but be eligible to vote in the special district. A board with three members may appoint one non-voting members, and a board with five members may appoint no more than two non-voting members.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2018-19, this bill will increase workload for the Department of Local Affairs to modify forms and instructional information for special districts. This workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

Under current law, the designated election officials for a special district maintains a voter list to track eligible electors in the special district. This bill will increase workload for election officials to create and update a list of non-resident voters. Costs will also increase to create, print, and mail a separate ballot for non-resident voters. These costs will vary depending on the size of the special district, number of non-resident voters registering, and the frequency of contested elections held by the special district.

To the extent that special districts choose to add non-voting members to their board of directors, costs may increase if the special district reimburses board members for expenses or compensates them for their service.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect September 1, 2018, if no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Municipalities

County Clerks
Secretary of State

Local Affairs
Special Districts