



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-1131 Date: April 9, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Coram Bill Status: Senate Local Government
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Bill Topic: ELECT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY DISTRICTS

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

This bill allows counties with a population of less than 70,000 to refer a question to the ballot asking voters to change the current method for electing county commissioners. Conditional upon such a question being referred to voters, this bill potentially increases county costs and workload in general election years.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows counties with a population of less than 70,000, either by board of county commissioners referendum or citizen initiative, to change the method for electing county commissioners. For counties that currently elect county commissioners by vote of the whole county, this bill allows that method to be changed to elect commissioners by district. For counties that currently elect county commissioners by district, the method can be changed to elect county commissioners by vote of the whole county.

Any referred question must be submitted at least 90 days before a general election. Any citizen initiated measure must obtain signatures from at least eight percent of the total number of voters and be submitted to the county clerk at least 90 days before the next general election. If the method of electing county commissioners is changed, the term of office for current county commissioners remains the same and the new election process will be used at the next election.

Local Government

According to the State Demography Office's 2016 county population estimate, 52 counties have a population of less than 70,000. Conditional upon a question being referred to the ballot, this bill increases county costs and workload to place a question on the general election ballot. However, because county clerks already do this work as part of their regular coordinated general election duties, this impact is expected to be minimal.

If the method for electing county commissioners is changed, some county costs may be incurred to update materials related to county commission representation. Given that these materials are typically updated after an election, these costs are assumed to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Local Affairs

County Clerks
Secretary of State