



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0808
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Herod
Sen. Fenberg

Date: July 15, 2019
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton | 303-866-5834
Chris.Creighton@state.co.us

Bill Topic: RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS PAROLEES

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

- State Revenue
- State Expenditure (*minimal*)
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government (*minimal*)
- Statutory Public Entity

This bill allows an individual on parole to register to vote and to vote in any election. It results in a one-time cost in FY 2019-20, and increases state and local government costs by a minimal amount on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2019-20, this bill includes a cash fund appropriation of \$16,960 to the Department of State.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1266

		FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$16,960	-
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows an individual on parole to register to vote and to vote in any election. The Division of Adult Parole in the Department of Corrections must notify parolees of their voting rights, how to register to vote or update his or her registration, and how to obtain a ballot and other voter information materials. This bill also repeals existing statutory provisions allowing parolees to preregister to vote, which under current law, allows a person to automatically be registered to vote upon completion of parole.

Background and Assumptions

The Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety reports that there were a total of 11,162 offenders on parole as of February 2019. Of this 9,743 are in-state parolees. Legislative Council staff projects 9,297 offenders will be on in-state parole in June of 2019 and 9,687 offenders will be on in-state parole in June of 2020. Therefore, this bill is expected to increase the total number individuals eligible to register to vote by approximately 10,000 per year.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill increases costs in the Department of State and Department of Revenue as described below.

Department of State. The Department of State requires \$16,960 to make modifications to the state voter registration system (SCORE) to allow parolees to register to vote. These changes require 160 hours of programming at a cost of \$106 per hour and will be paid out of the Department of State Cash Fund. Additionally, the Department of State election reimbursement to counties, paid from the General Fund, is expected to increase by less than \$10,000 in years where a statewide ballot measure appears on the ballot. Any change in county reimbursement appropriations, if needed, will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Department of Revenue. This bill requires minor DRIVES reprogramming changes to allow parolees to be able to register to vote through the Division of Motor Vehicles. This cost and the additional workload to register parolees can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections currently advises parolees of their right to preregister to vote and no change in workload is expected as a result of this bill.

Local Government

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill increases county clerk costs and workload to print and mail ballots to parolees that register to vote. Using an average per ballot printing and mailing cost of \$1.00 and the in-state parolee estimate of 10,000, this bill increases county costs by up to \$10,000 statewide per election on an ongoing basis. This increase will vary by county depending on the number of parolees that register to vote in the county. In years with a statewide ballot measure, these costs will be offset by the county election reimbursement from the state which is generally 90 cents per active registered voter for counties with fewer than 100,000 registered voters and 80 cents per voter for counties with more than 100,000 registered voters.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 28, 2019, and took effect July 1, 2019. It applies to parolees seeking to register to vote on or after this date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, this bill includes an appropriation of \$16,960 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Department of State.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Revenue

County Clerks
Secretary of State

Information Technology