



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0516 Date: January 29, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Liston; Hooton Bill Status: House SVMA
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Bill Topic: NONRESIDENT ELECTORS & SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, TABOR Refund, State Expenditure (minimal), Local Government, State Transfer, 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 and allows a special district, upon passage of a resolution, to permit individuals who do not reside in Colorado to vote in the special district's 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 cannot reside in the state, but must be eligible to vote in the special district. A board with three members may appoint one non-voting member, and a board with five members may appoint no more than two non-voting members.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2019-20, 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, and have not been estimated.

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 non-voting board members for expenses or compensates them for their service.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	County Clerks	Local Affairs
Municipalities	Secretary of State	Special Districts