

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION
Revision 1

April 19, 2011

TO: Honorable Larry Taylor, Chair, House Committee on Elections

FROM: John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2814 by Hochberg (relating to electronic voter registration.), **Committee Report 1st House, As Amended**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB2814, Committee Report 1st House, As Amended: a negative impact of (\$140,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2013.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2012	(\$140,000)
2013	\$0
2014	\$0
2015	\$0
2016	\$0

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1
2012	(\$140,000)
2013	\$0
2014	\$0
2015	\$0
2016	\$0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require the Secretary of State (SOS) to implement a program to allow a person who has a valid driver's license or state personal identification card to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from certain websites. The program would also be required to obtain a digital copy of the applicant's signature from the Department of Public Safety. SOS would be required to adopt rules including rules to provide for additional security measures. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2011.

Methodology

It is assumed that the fiscal impact of the bill would be approximately \$140,000 for contracted programming costs (see Technology section). It is also assumed that there would be postage savings of approximately \$0.80 each from people who choose to register online instead of mailing a prepaid postage voter registration application but it is not known how many people who would otherwise utilize prepaid postage applications would choose to register online instead. Therefore savings from reduced postage reimbursements to counties cannot be determined. It is anticipated that any additional costs associated with implementation of the legislation could be absorbed within existing resources.

Technology

The Secretary of State (SOS) estimates a cost of \$20,000 to develop an Internet voter registration application and \$120,000 to import, verify, secure, and store the applicant's digital signature. In addition, it is assumed that the Department of Public Safety would need to create an interface that would allow for the electronic signatures to be transmitted to SOS but it is assumed this cost could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 307 Secretary of State, 405 Department of Public Safety

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