

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION
Revision 1

May 14, 2019

TO: Honorable Stephanie Klick, Chair, House Committee on Elections

FROM: John McGeady, Assistant Director Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director
Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB9 by Hughes (relating to election integrity; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses; creating civil penalties.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill amends the Election Code relating to voter registration, poll watchers, voter assistants, voting system auditability, and civil and criminal penalties for election-related offenses. The bill would make no appropriation but provides the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill takes effect September 1, 2019.

Based on analysis by the Secretary of State, additional staff resources will be required to administer the risk-limiting audit program authorized by the bill. However, it is assumed that any costs associated with risk-limiting audits authorized by the bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

Based on analysis by the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Court Administration, any cost associated with enforcing the provisions of the bill could be absorbed within existing resources. Based on analysis by the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the potential fiscal impact of civil penalties and fines authorized by the bill cannot be determined at this time.

Local Government Impact

The offense created by the bill would be a Class B misdemeanor. A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both. Costs associated with enforcement, prosecution and confinement could likely be absorbed within existing resources. Revenue gain from fines imposed and collected is not anticipated to have a significant fiscal implication.

Based on analysis by the Secretary of State, the requirement to perform risk-limiting audits may have a fiscal impact to units of local government.

Source Agencies: 307 Secretary of State, 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 302 Office of the Attorney General, 304 Comptroller of Public

Accounts

LBB Staff: WP, SLE, NV, JMO, SD, SPa, CMa, AF