

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 31, 2019

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

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

IN RE: **SB1611** by Hall (Relating to a voter registrar's compliance with certain laws and secretary of state rules; creating a criminal offense.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for SB1611, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$446,640) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

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
2020	(\$229,726)
2021	(\$216,914)
2022	(\$216,914)
2023	(\$216,914)
2024	(\$216,914)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund	Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2019
2020	1 (\$229,726)	2.0
2021	(\$216,914)	2.0
2022	(\$216,914)	2.0
2023	(\$216,914)	2.0
2024	(\$216,914)	2.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend the Election Code to increase the frequency of monitoring by the Secretary of State of county voter registrars and to establish a state jail felony.

The bill takes effect September 1, 2019.

Methodology

Based on analysis by the Secretary of State, the increase in monitoring frequency required by the bill would result in increased workload and require 2.0 additional FTEs to implement. This increase in workload is attributed additional monitoring of Texas' 254 counties, additional notices to related county registrars, and referral of violations established by the bill. In addition, county elections training materials would require revisions by the Secretary of State, but this analysis assumes that the cost to update these materials could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

County registrars found in violation of the provisions of Election Code, Section 18.065 will have committed a state jail felony offense. For other local political subdivisions, no significant fiscal impact is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 307 Secretary of State

LBB Staff: WP, CMa, NV, JMO