

HF1372 - 1A - Permanent Absentee Voter List

Chief Author: **Jamie Long**
 Committee: **State Government Finance Division**
 Date Completed: **2/21/2020 7:32:37 PM**
 Agency: **Secretary of State**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact	X	

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
General Fund	-	-	38	-	-	-
Total	-	-	38	-	-	-
Biennial Total			38			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Michelle Weber **Date:** 2/21/2020 7:32:37 PM
Phone: 651-297-1423 **Email:** michelle.weber@lbo.leg.mn

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
General Fund		-	-	38	-	-
Total		-	-	38	-	-
Biennial Total				38		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund		-	-	38	-	-
Total		-	-	38	-	-
Biennial Total				38		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund		-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

This bill changes the current permanent absentee balloting system to provide that a permanent absentee voter, instead of receiving an application for absentee ballot for each election, will instead automatically receive the actual ballot itself, and the election to be a permanent absentee voter will effectively be the application.

Residents of mail ballot precincts, where ballots are already sent to all registered voters, are excluded from electing this status in order to insure that those voters receive only one ballot per election.

Assumptions

The modification of the voter registration paper form will take a nominal amount of time. Posting the pdf to the web will take a similarly small amount of time. A total of two hours is estimated for this work.

There will be significant programming for this function. At least the following actions in SVRS will need to be modified or added:

- 1) A flag for county auditors to enter from a paper voter registration application that a person is electing permanent absentee ballot status must be added in SVRS.
- 2) The online voter registration must have added a box electing permanent absentee ballot status.
- 3) A flag that will indicate whether an individual voter has elected permanent absentee ballot status must be added to SVRS.
- 4) A report must be created in SVRS that county auditors can use to create labels to send out an absentee ballot for every election to those who have elected permanent absentee ballot status.
- 5) The AB module of SVRS must also reflect all of this.

There may be other ancillary changes required as well.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

For the modification of the paper form, and posting:

2 hours of staff time @ \$50/hour = \$ 100

For the programming, development and testing of the changes to the SVRS system:

440 hours @ \$85/hour = \$37,400

Total = \$37,500

\$37,500 (FY21)

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

None.

Local Fiscal Impact

Some savings will accrue to counties as they will no longer need to mail out and process returned absentee ballot applications. Rather, they will simply send out the absentee ballots themselves. There are approximately 20,000 persons who have elected permanent absentee ballot status statewide at this time. It is possible that number will increase once the process is made more convenient to the voter as well, eliminating one of two steps.

References/Sources

Bibi Black

651-201-1326

I have reviewed the content of this fiscal note and believe it is a reasonable estimate of the expenditures and revenues associated with this proposed legislation.

If Information Technology costs are included, my agency's Chief Information Officer has reviewed the estimate.

Agency Contact:

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Juin Charnell

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