

HF158 - 0 - Voting Instructions; Languages for Absentee Voting

Chief Author: **Jay Xiong**
 Committee: **State Government Finance and Policy**
 Date Completed: **2/3/2021 2:29:56 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	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
General Fund	-	-	48	-	-	-
Total	-	-	48	-	-	-
Biennial Total			48			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
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: Adam Blom **Date:** 2/3/2021 2:29:56 PM
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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	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	
General Fund	-	-	48	-	-	-
Total	-	-	48	-	-	-
Biennial Total			48			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	48	-	-	-
Total	-	-	48	-	-	-
Biennial Total			48			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

This bill requires that the Office of the Secretary of State (OSS) prepare instructions for using the alternative procedure for in-person absentee voting, sometimes called early voting, in languages other than English, and those instructions must be prepared in the Spanish, Hmong and Somali languages and may be prepared in other languages. The instructions must be created in print, electronic and audio-visual (video) forms.

Assumptions

OSS currently provides some materials for the following 11 languages: Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Vietnamese, Russian, Chinese, Lao, Oromo, Khmer, Amharic, and Karen. Because this legislation assumes that the OSS will be providing at minimum translation for three languages, and because the OSS has a practice of translating materials into additional languages, this note provides estimates for the translation of up to 11 languages, plus, for the video version, American Sign Language (ASL).

There are a number of instructional passages in existing guides for election officials describing the alternative procedure voting process. Revising existing text for use by voters will be done by OSS staff at a cost of approximately \$50/hour.

Based on the experiences OSS had with translations during the 2020 General Election, and the requirement for print, electronic and audio-visual instructions, translations cost:

- \$ 200 per language for print;
- \$ 500 per language for audio;
- \$3300 per language for video (audio-visual).

This note also assumes that counties and local governments administering the alternative procedure will reproduce the translated and printed instructions on site as necessary for posting and distribution.

The note assumes that the text creation and translations are done in FY23, prior to the 2022 elections, to include any changes made to that point in the process. Alternative voting will not commence until early August for the 2022 elections, which places that in FY23.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Editing:

4 hours staff time @ \$50 = \$200.

\$ 200 (FY23)

Translation:

Print:

11 languages @ \$200 per language = \$2,200

\$ 2,200 (FY23)

Audio:

11 languages @ \$500 per language = \$5,500

\$ 5,500 (FY23)

Audio-Visual (Video):

11 languages, plus ASL @ \$3,300 per language = \$39,600

\$39,600 (FY23)

Total Expenditure:

\$47,500 (FY23)

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

The translation itself is a one-time cost.

If there are changes to the alternative procedure or it is made obsolete by other laws passed in the future, new instructions will need to be developed and translated in order to inform speakers of languages other than English, or users of ASL, of the proper procedures.

Local Fiscal Impact

While audio and audio-visual (video) versions could be located on websites and linked to at little cost, print versions will need to be locally printed, posted, and distributed. This is a minimal cost, however.

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.

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