

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 3487H.03C  
Bill No.: HCS for HB 1595  
Subject: Elections; Disabilities  
Type: Original  
Date: March 14, 2022

---

Bill Summary: This proposal requires that all ballots be in paper form.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other State Funds</u></b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note this bill would require all direct-record electronic voting machines (DREs) be removed from service by January 1, 2023, with the exception of any machine used solely for disabled voters. Based on most recent survey conducted in 2020, there are 330 DREs in service statewide. All local election authorities (LEAs) which disclosed the use of DREs on the survey have already replaced or have indicated that they are actively planning to replace those machines prior to the date specified in the bill. Therefore, the SOS does not anticipate being required to cover the costs under Article X, Section 21, but will provide assistance to those LEAs using existing grant programs.

**Oversight** notes this response from the SOS is different from previous years. SOS' response to similar proposals in 2021 (i.e. HB 925) included a per-machine replacement cost of \$5,000 for the 330 DRE's in service statewide (for a total of \$1.65 million. Oversight will utilize SOS' assumption that this change is already in progress and that this bill will not create an additional fiscal impact to the state.

The **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** also assumes many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

**Oversight** assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process.

Officials from the **St. Louis City Board of Elections** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. This would require a new voting system. St. Louis City Election Board is currently in the process of procuring a new voting system.

Officials from the **St. Louis County Board of Elections** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Jackson County Election Board** and **Platte County Board of Elections** both assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

**Oversight** notes Section 115.225.3 requires until January 1, 2024, if any election authority uses direct-record electronic touchscreen vote counting machines, the election authority may continue to use such machines solely for voters who are disabled and desire to use them. As stated by the Kansas City Board of Elections if only disabled voters can use the ballot marking device, additional ballots would need to be printed at a cost of \$40,000 per election (80,000 ballots @ 50 cents per ballot). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential unknown cost to local election authorities for the cost of printing additional ballots on the fiscal note.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Costs</u> - Local Election Authorities Printing of additional ballots	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b><u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

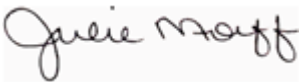
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning January 1, 2023, this bill requires the use of paper ballots for all elections. Until January 1, 2024, election authorities may continue to use electronic touchscreen machines for disabled voters.

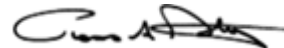
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State  
Jackson County Board of Elections  
Platte County Board of Elections  
St. Louis City Board of Elections  
St. Louis County Board of Elections  
Kansas City Board of Elections



Julie Morff  
Director  
March 14, 2022



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
March 14, 2022