



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2017 Biennium

Bill # HB0070

Title: Revise vote by mail laws

Primary Sponsor: Custer, Geraldine

Status: As Introduced

- Significant Local Gov Impact
 Needs to be included in HB 2
 Technical Concerns
 Included in the Executive Budget
 Significant Long-Term Impacts
 Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2018 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2019 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 70 will have no impact to the state. HB 70 will provide significant savings to local governments.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

1. There is no fiscal impact to the state.

Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures:

1. The Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR) and the Secretary of State compiled cost estimates for running statewide "polling place" elections in each of Montana's 56 counties.
2. Secretary of State Staff adjusted the MACR cost savings between a poll election and a mail ballot election by adding in additional costs included in HB 70, including estimates for 24/7 security, accessible drop boxes, subscription to a service to compare addresses to USPS addresses, outreach to voters, mailings to inactive voters, and advertising the annual plan.
3. Based upon this analysis, the total savings for the FY 2015 biennium is estimated to be roughly \$2 million. This estimate includes a total savings to run both the general and primary statewide election during the biennium.
4. The fiscal savings to local government in future years is estimated to grow beyond \$2 million in each biennial fiscal cycle, as some of the initial requirements in HB 70 will sunset, and some are one-time costs.

Technical Notes:

Office of Public Instruction

1. Section 15 of the bill does not specify a deadline for amendments to written mail ballot plans for school elections.
2. In accordance with Section 18, school districts would be required to mail ballots on the 25th day before the election. Pursuant to 20-20-401, MCA, the deadline to certify ballots for school elections is the 25th day before the election. Current law provides for a window of not before the 25th day nor later than the 15th day.
3. Section 25 only applies to general and primary elections. There is no language for school elections or other types of elections, and therefore, no guidance or requirements with regard to places of deposit and official drop boxes.

Bradwin Carter 11/5/15
Sponsor's Initials Date

[Signature] 12/20/14
Budget Director's Initials Date