

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0747S.01I
Bill No.: SB 17
Subject: Elections
Type: Original
Date: January 20, 2021

Bill Summary: This proposal would modify the absentee voting process.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Revenue	\$0 to (Less than \$100,000)	\$0 to (Less than \$100,000)	\$0 to (Less than \$100,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 to (Less than \$100,000)	\$0 to (Less than \$100,000)	\$0 to (Less than \$100,000)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

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

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Local Government	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The Secretary of State's office 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 Secretary of State's office for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The Secretary of State's office recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, we also recognize 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 our office can sustain with our core budget. Therefore, we reserve 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 require additional resources.

Oversight notes there could be a potential increase in absentee ballots if this proposal were to be enacted. There may be additional mailing expense for returned voted ballot postage that will be charged to the State of Missouri. In response to similar legislation, SB 657 (2020), the **SOS** stated there may be an increase, but the SOS is not able to quantify it beyond an "unknown." Oversight assumes the cost will not be material, and will reflect a zero to a (Less than \$100,000) annual fiscal impact to the State of Missouri.

Officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** assume the fiscal impact of this proposal would be to hire 2 new permanent employees at \$40,000 each including benefits (2 x \$40,000 = \$80,000). Postage and printing per election would increase \$10,000 - \$25,000 to handle the increased volume of absentee voters.

In response to similar legislation, SB 657 (2020), officials from the **Jackson County Election Board** anticipate a 30% increase in mail outs within their jurisdictional boundaries if the proposal should pass. Jackson County Election Board has 250,000 who could qualify under this proposal.

Using Presidential Year 2016 as a guide, the increase in postage costs would be:

March Mail Outs	1,996	30% increase (599) x .70 cents =	\$419.30
April Mail Outs	918	30% increase (276) x .70 cents =	\$193.20
August Mail Outs	1,915	30% increase (575) x .70 cents =	\$402.50
November Mail Outs	11,025	30% increase (3,308) x .70 cents =	<u>\$2,315.60</u>
Total Postage			\$3,330.60

Additional part-time help to assemble additional mail-outs of absentee ballots:

\$12.00 per hour x 10 minutes per additional mail-outs (6 per hour) 793 hours = \$9,516.00

Reprinting of absentee ballot envelopes and instructions: = \$6,500.00

Total Fiscal Note for Jackson County Election Board = **\$19,346.60**

Oversight notes there could be an increase in absentee ballots if this proposal were to be enacted. We are unable to determine how many additional individuals will cast an absentee ballot; therefore, Oversight will reflect an unknown fiscal impact for the additional cost to local election authorities.

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

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local election authorities were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost - SOS - returned ballot postage</u>	\$0 to (Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	\$0 to (Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	\$0 to (Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	\$0 to (Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	\$0 to (Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	\$0 to (Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES			
<u>Cost - processing additional absentee ballots</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Under current law, a person may vote absentee for candidates and ballot issues in any election in which he or she is eligible to vote if such voter expects to be prevented from going to the polls for specified reasons. This act permits a person to vote absentee for any reason or no reason at all.

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

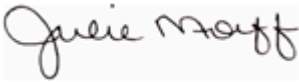
L.R. No. 0747S.01I

Bill No. SB 17

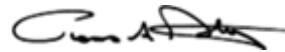
Page 6 of 6

January 20, 2021

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Morff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julie Morff
Director
January 20, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Strobe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
January 20, 2021