

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2013

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 102 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Online Voter Registration.

SPONSOR(S): Representative Alexander

FISCAL IMPACT					
(\$ in thousands)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Estimate Available					
	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
State Impact					
General Fund Revenues:					
GF Expenditures - SBOE	No estimate available.				
State Board of Elections					
Highway Fund Revenues:					
Highway Fund Expenditure	45.5				
State Positions:					
NET STATE IMPACT	(\$45.5)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Local Impact					
Revenues:					
Expenditures:					
NET LOCAL IMPACT	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:					
NCDOT, Division of Motor Vehicles, State Board of Elections					
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2013					
TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:					
Yes - See Technical Considerations Section					

BILL SUMMARY:

HB 102 requires the State Board of Elections (SBOE) to develop a voter registration form that may be printed out from a computer website for completion manually or electronically completed online and printed out for mailing.

The bill requires the SBOE to develop a web-based application that allows individuals to electronically register to vote and make changes to their voter registration information online. Once information is submitted electronically, the Division of Motor Vehicles is required to compare the submitted voter registration information with information currently on file in the State Automated Driver License System (SADLS). If the voter registration information matches DMV's database, DMV must send the completed application, digital signature, and other identifying information to the county board of elections in which the applicant resides. If DMV cannot match an applicant's information to its records, DMV must send the submitted application and notify the appropriate county board of elections that the application cannot be processed. The county board of elections must then notify the applicant by U.S. mail and e-mail, if applicable, that the application cannot be processed.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

HB 102 modifies the current registration process by requiring the Division of Motor Vehicles to verify voter information that is submitted through an online application and to send the electronic application and verification results to County Boards of Elections. To comply with this requirement, the Department of Transportation proposes to send the required verification results and information directly to SBOE information systems for disbursement to county boards of elections. Additional development costs will be incurred to modify current DMV information technology systems to achieve this functionality. County boards of elections may also incur additional costs for processing the required notifications.

Division of Motor Vehicles

The verification process proposed in Section 2 (G.S. 163-82.5A) requires development of an interface between the SBOE and the State Automated Driver License System (SADLS). This analysis assumes that upon submission of the application to the secure SBOE web portal, collected information (included the identification number) will be sent via web-service to DMV triggering a Customer Information Control System (CICS) transaction and program designed to:

- Compare applicant-submitted information with stored identification numbers in the SADLS database;
- Store the received application information and an indicator which confirms that the applicant possesses current and valid identification in a new DB2 table, for audit purposes;
- Retrieve digital signatures for confirmed applicants via web service; and,
- Return resultant data to the SBOE, including the application information, match indicator, and digital signature, when a match is found.

NCDOT does not believe these modifications will impact the current batch interface with the SBOE to provide voter registration information. However, NCDOT cannot estimate a completion date due to ongoing implementation of the Next Generation Secure Driver License System (NGSDLS) and other workload constraints.

The proposed modifications are estimated to require 700 labor hours for documentation, analysis, programming, and testing/implementation, representing \$45,000 in estimated implementation costs.

State Board of Elections

The SBOE voter registration system would require changes to establish a secure internet website and ongoing costs for confirmation and real-time interface. The SBOE is unable estimate a cost for these changes.

If DMV is required to provide the SBOE with nightly updates of its current and valid customer databases so that the SBOE can use this information to determine if a web user is eligible to use the online voter registration portal. There would be IT costs and ongoing costs. There is no estimate available on these changes at SBOE.

County Boards of Elections

Allowing individuals to print off voter registration forms would save money. Currently, the SBOE prepares and prints the registration forms and makes those available to county boards of elections' offices, public libraries, schools, and various groups and organizations that operate voter registration drives. Since 2010, OSBM has incurred printing costs of approximately \$200,000. It is not known how many forms that SBOE would continue to print and provide to entities; however, it is assumed there would be some savings in printing costs.

SOURCES OF DATA: State Board of Elections; Department of Transportation – Information Technology Section

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: DMV-compiled voter registration documentation is currently distributed to the State Board of Elections directly, which via the statewide voter registration database system, disseminates the information to the 100 county boards of elections. HB102 instead directs that DMV transmit the required verification results and associated information to county boards of elections, without reference to the statewide voter registration system. The proposed technical solution would modify the current flow of information to the statewide voter registration system, but still require distribution to county boards of elections through the State Board of Elections database.

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