

Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 2367 – Absentee Ballot Reporting (LSB 5273 HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New
Requested by Representative Mary Mascher

Description

Requires the Absentee Ballot and Voters Precinct Board to record a separate tally of absentee ballots by resident precinct, and requires the tally to be available for public inspection.

Background

Currently, counties have the option of maintaining absentee ballots with or without the resident precinct identified. Some counties are already meeting the requirements of HF 2367.

Assumptions

- Counties that use Election Systems and Software (ES&S) voting systems, and have more than 10 precincts, will need to purchase additional memory cards to count absentee ballots by precinct. This includes 13 counties that will purchase 18 memory cards at an estimated cost of \$250 per card.
- Counties will experience increased costs associated with the set-up and printing of new absentee ballot styles with the resident precinct identified. The cost will vary from county to county based on the number of precincts in a county, and whether or not the county currently prints absentee ballots with the resident precinct identified. Larger counties tend not to print absentee ballots by resident precinct.
- Some counties will experience an increase in labor costs for the increased work associated with the ballot testing procedures that are necessary prior to an election. The testing is done to ensure that ballots are recording votes properly.
- The Secretary of State anticipates incurring programming costs to the I-Voters System to collect absentee data by precinct and make it publicly available.

Fiscal Impact

House File 2367 is estimated to cost the Secretary of State's Office \$31,000 for programming associated with the I-Voters System.

It is estimated that the counties currently not using precinct identifiers on absentee ballots will experience a significant increase in costs associated with the set-up, printing, and testing of new ballot styles by resident precinct. Polk County estimates an increase of \$160,000 in printing-related costs every two years for both the general and primary elections. In addition, some counties will experience an increase in labor costs for the increased work associated with ballot testing procedures.

In addition, 13 counties will incur a one-time expense totaling an estimated \$4,500 for the purchase of memory cards used in programming additional precincts in the machines used in those counties.

Sources

Secretary of State
Polk County Auditor
Iowa State Association of Counties

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 11, 2008

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
