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**SF 331** – Voter Registration, Electronic (LSB1882SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

**Senate File 331** permits electronic voter registration, electronic updating of voter registration information, and electronic correction of voter registration information to all be done from the State Commissioner of Elections' Internet site. The Bill takes effect January 1, 2016.

**Background**

- The current statewide voter registration system (IVOTERS) was completed in 2005.
- In calendar year 2014, there were 2,129,908 registered voters.
- A total of \$213,000 in one-time money was spent from the State Election Fund in FY 2013 for the 2014 election to develop the Election Night Results Reporting System.
- In FY 2011 to FY 2014, there were no offenders convicted under Iowa Code chapter 48A that includes fraudulent electronic registration punishable by a Class D felony.

**Assumptions**

- The new web-based online voter registration system will need to interface with the current IVOTERS system. The new system will require electronic voter registration forms and fields, the capacity for registrants to identify county of residence, and website modifications to address ADA compliance.
- Programming and processing changes to the IVOTERS system will be required including:
  - Creating a new transaction source code for online registrations.
  - Creating a new module to process two different batch processes to transfer voter registration data to county commissioners; for Department of Transportation (DOT) processed registrants; and for Secretary of State online registrants.
  - Processing for providing notification to new registrants.
  - A utility for county commissioners to pull voter registration data into the county systems.

**Fiscal Impact**

This Bill will increase State General Fund expenditures to the Secretary of State's Office by \$203,750 in FY 2016 and \$20,000 in FY 2017 and subsequent years. This includes:

- A one-time cost of \$110,000 for a contracted vendor to program the IVOTERS adaptations. The ongoing operating costs will be approximately \$20,000 annually.
- A one-time cost of \$93,750 for website design and development. This service will be provided from an outside source. If an IT Specialist 5 was hired rather than using an outside source, the total compensation of salary and benefits will be \$125,000.

Counties will experience additional costs in implementing an online voter registration website; however, no estimates are available at this time but could be significant. Once the online program is implemented, the counties may experience a savings in time spent processing paper registration forms.

**Sources**

Office of the Secretary of State  
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division  
Department of Transportation (DOT)

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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