

**NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2024 REGULAR SESSION
DAILY
SENATE CLIP SHEET**

March 4, 2024

Clip Sheet Summary

Displays all amendments, fiscal notes, and conference committee reports for previous day.

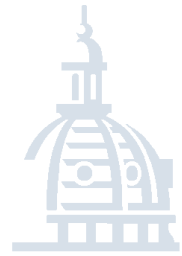
| Bill | Amendment | Action | Sponsor |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
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No amendments filed on February 29, 2024

Fiscal Notes

[SF 2283](#) — [County Supervisor Districts](#) (LSB6100XS)

[SF 2380](#) — [Elections, Voting, Ballots, and Candidates](#) (LSB6288SV)



[SF 2283](#) – County Supervisor Districts (LSB6100XS)
Staff Contact: Joey Lovan (515.242.5925) joey.lovan@legis.iowa.gov
Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[Senate File 2283](#) relates to county redistricting plans. The Bill is organized into three divisions:

Division I

This Division requires counties with a population of 125,000 or more based on the most recent federal decennial census that do not use plan “three” for the election of supervisors, as of the effective date of this Bill, to commence plan “three” for the election of supervisors in the 2024 general election.

This Division also requires counties to establish a temporary county redistricting commission to adopt a representation plan by the later of 30 days after the effective date of this Bill or May 15, 2024. The plan is required to be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) no later than November 1, 2024, and will become effective January 1, 2025.

Division II

This Division requires vacancies on a board of supervisors to be filled by special election.

Division III

This Division makes the Bill effective upon enactment.

Background

Under Iowa Code section [331.206](#), county redistricting plans are selected by the county board of supervisors or by special election (Iowa Code section [331.207](#)). The three types of plans are as follows:

- Plan “one” — Election at large and without district residence requirements for the members.
- Plan “two” — Election at large but with equal-population district residence requirements for the members.
- Plan “three” — Election from single-member equal-population districts in which the electors of each district shall elect one member who must reside in that district.

Currently, there are five counties with a population of 125,000 or more that would be required to use plan “three.” Of the five counties, three, Black Hawk, Johnson, and Scott, will be changing from plan “one” to plan “three,” and two, Linn and Polk, already use plan “three.”

Iowa Code section [69.14A](#) allows for the vacancies to be filled by appointment under certain circumstances.

Assumptions

Division I

- The three counties changing from plan “one” to plan “three” will experience an estimated cost between \$40,000 and \$80,000 per county to conform their district to plan “three.” The estimated cost will cover training, additional precincts, conforming ballots, and the mailing of new voter registration cards to all eligible voters within the county.
- There will be no additional costs to the two counties currently using plan “three.”

Division II

Counties that are required to hold special elections as a result of vacancies for their boards of supervisors may experience an estimated cost per county between \$1,000 and \$185,000, depending on the number of registered voters in the county. The frequency and location of these vacancies cannot be estimated.

Fiscal Impact

Division I

For the three counties required to change from plan “one” to plan “three” under Division I, the one-time cost per county is estimated to be between \$40,000 and \$80,000 for a total one-time cost between \$120,000 and \$240,000 for FY 2025.

Division II

Counties that hold special elections for their boards of supervisors pursuant to Division II may incur a cost of between \$1,000 and \$185,000 for each special election held in each county.

Source

Iowa State Association of Counties

/s/ Jennifer Acton

February 28, 2024

Doc ID 1446801

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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[SF 2380](#) – Elections, Voting, Ballots, and Candidates (LSB6288SV)
Staff Contact: Joey Lovan (515.242.5925) joey.lovan@legis.iowa.gov
Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[Senate File 2380](#) relates to duties of the office of the Secretary of State (SOS). The Bill is organized in seven divisions. As only Division IV and Division VI have estimated fiscal impacts, this **Fiscal Note** will focus only on those divisions.

Division IV — Absent Voters

Description and Background

This Division eliminates the use of drop boxes for returning an absentee ballot and defines terms. This Division changes the timeline for a county commissioner of elections to mail an absentee ballot to no more than 22 days before an election and requires ballots to be received by 5:00 p.m. and be recorded as received by 11:59 p.m. on the day before an election. This Division requires a registered voter to subscribe to an affidavit on an affidavit envelope by signing the envelope and marking the registered voter's voter verification number. This Division also updates the contents of an absentee ballot.

Currently, Iowa Code section [53.8](#) allows county commissioners to mail absentee ballots no more than 20 days before an election. Iowa Code section [53.17](#) requires that ballots be counted if the return envelope is received in the commissioner's office before polls close on election day.

Assumptions

- All counties will need to purchase new envelopes as a result of new printing requirements.
- The estimated cost for newly printed envelopes is \$0.75 per ballot.
- According to the SOS, approximately 1.1 million absentee ballots were requested for the 2020 general election and approximately 382,000 absentee ballots were requested for the 2022 general election.
- Adding Intelligent Mail barcodes to the new envelopes is estimated to cost \$500 per 5,000 envelopes.
- The cost of replacement envelopes and ballots for voters who do not complete the voter verification field correctly cannot be calculated since the number that will be needed is unable to be estimated.
- Return postage to be paid by the counties as a result of the elimination of drop boxes is expected to be minimal.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of the new envelope requirements is dependent on the number of absentee ballots requested. Assuming the same or similar voter turnout to recent presidential and midterm elections, the cost increase for new envelope printing is estimated to be approximately \$800,000 for presidential election years and \$286,000 for midterm election years.

The fiscal impact of removing ballot drop boxes cannot be estimated.

Division VI — Voter Registration Database Pilot Program

Description and Background

This Division creates a voter registration database verification pilot program. This Division requires the State registrar of voters to contract with a third-party vendor to develop or provide a program to verify ineligible voters on an ongoing basis. This Division requires the SOS, during the first quarter of 2025, to use the developed or acquired program to forward analysis of the voter registration file to each county commissioner of registration prior to the date reports are required to be submitted pursuant to Iowa Code section [48A.40](#). This Division also requires the State registrar of voters to evaluate the efficacy and costs of the pilot program as compared to the current method of maintaining the statewide voter registration database. Iowa Code section 47.7A is repealed December 31, 2027.

Currently, Iowa Code section [47.7](#) allows the State registrar to contract with a third-party vendor to develop or provide a program to verify the status of records in the statewide voter registration file.

As of February 2024, there are approximately 2.2 million registered voters in the State of Iowa.

Assumptions

- The SOS estimates vendor costs to develop a voter registration database that will be used to compare against the current method to be between \$0.05 and \$0.15 per voter. This may create a cost between approximately \$110,000 and \$331,000.
- Additional vendor and staff time to develop and make the comparison file is estimated to be approximately \$25,000.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of Division VI is estimated to increase expenditures for the SOS by approximately \$135,000 and \$356,000 for each year of the two-year pilot program.

Sources

Secretary of State
Iowa State Association of Counties
Legislative Services Agency

/s/ Jennifer Acton

February 28, 2024

Doc ID 1447050

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.
