

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0282-01
Bill No.: HB 361
Subject: Elementary and Secondary Education; Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Councils; Elections
Type: Original
Date: January 28, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal changes election procedures for school board members.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND				
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS				
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses. This fiscal note contains 7 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS				
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS				
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
Local Government	(Unknown) to Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume the proposal will result in no cost to their organization.

Officials from the **St. Louis County Directors of Elections** assume, because school board elections currently take place in April municipal elections, the Election Board pays more to cover costs to administer the election. If changed to taking place in November elections, this would save the Election Board about \$350,000.

Officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections** do not expect a direct fiscal impact from the proposed legislation. However we do foresee significant complications arising from its passage. General elections in even years already present full and complicated ballots. Adding another race, and one that often has more than 5 candidates would only add to the complexity. In our most recent election, November 6, 2018, some voters had full front and back 18 inch ballots. The addition of another race would have required a second ballot page for those voters. We don't view this as a positive outcome for voters nor for the efficient administration of elections.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State** and the **Monroe County Assessor** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations.

In response to a similar proposal HCS for HB 1424 (2018), officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** assumed there would be a substantial savings in election costs. By moving the School Board elections to November, entities having elections would share costs and save in excess of \$100,000 or more per year. This election would be more expensive, but costs would be pro-rated among several entities, with everyone paying a smaller share. Another benefit would be a better turnouts, since historically November elections have the highest turnouts. However, not all races can fit on one ballot, therefore more than one ballot may be needed.

In response to a similar proposal HCS for HB 1424 (2018), officials from **Buchanan County** assumed, having the school districts run their elections in November, would help alleviate election costs on the county level, but assumed small entities, like fire, water, ambulance districts, the trustee members of villages, etc. would not be able to afford an April election alone without a larger entity there to help divvy up the costs.

Officials from **Maries County R-1 School District** assume this proposal would save the district expenses for the election.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **City of Kansas City, Missouri** and **City of Keytesville** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations.

Oversight assumes, beginning in 2021 (FY 2021), this proposal requires school board elections to be held biennially during the November election of even-number years instead of annual April municipal elections. Oversight assumes this proposal would result in savings to school districts as this would reduce the number of school board elections.

Oversight assumes no school board election shall be held in April 2021 (FY 2021); therefore, Oversight will show an unknown savings occurring in FY 2021.

Oversight notes due to the proposal shifting the elections from April to November and limiting the elections to even numbered calendar years, school board elections costs will only be incurred in odd numbered fiscal years; therefore, the savings from generated from biennial elections will occur in even numbered fiscal years. For example, no longer holding the April 2022 school board election will result in savings occurring in FY 2022 as there is no offsetting cost occurring in even numbered fiscal years. Instead the elections will occur in November 2022 (FY 2023) and will be offset by the savings generated from the school board election that would otherwise have been held in April 2023 (FY 2023). Oversight will show an unknown savings beginning in April 2022 (FY 2022) and recurring in even numbered fiscal years.

Oversight notes, as indicated by some of the election authorities, the cost of the November elections could increase in part due to an increase in the number of ballot issues and ballot pages. Oversight will show a potential unknown cost beginning in November 2022 (FY 2023) and recurring in even numbered calendar years (odd numbered fiscal years).

Oversight assumes some local political subdivisions may face increased costs beginning in the April 2021 election (FY 2021) as school districts would no longer share in the proportional cost. Oversight will show a potential unknown cost to some local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2021 and recurring annually for each municipal election held.

Beginning in November of 2022 (FY 2023), Oversight assumes some local political subdivisions may see proportional cost savings as school districts would now share in the cost of the November elections occurring on even numbered calendar years (odd numbered fiscal years). Oversight will show a potential unknown savings to some local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2023 and recurring in odd numbered fiscal years.

FISCAL IMPACT -
State Government

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT -
Local Government

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Fully Implemented (FY 2024)
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**LOCAL
 POLITICAL
 SUBDIVISIONS**

Cost - increase in
 proportional cost for
 April election to
 locals other than
 schools

	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
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Cost - increase in
 ballot issues for
 November Elections

	\$0	\$0	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0
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Savings - decrease in
 proportional cost for
 November election
 to locals including
 school districts

	\$0	\$0	\$0 to Unknown	\$0
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Savings - reduced
 election costs for
 school districts
 (annual to biennial)

	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
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**LOCAL
 POLITICAL
 SUBDIVISIONS**

	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>
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FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The bill allows members of the General Assembly to run for the office of school board member as well as General Assembly member on the same ballot. Currently, school board elections are held at specified election dates as determined by the designation and location of school districts. Beginning in 2022, this bill requires school board elections for seven-director school districts, urban school districts, and school districts with subdistricts to be held during the November general election. For all existing school boards not holding an initial election the terms will be staggered and four years in length, as specified in the bill. Any member whose term ends in 2021 or any other odd-number year will serve until the election in the following even-numbered year..

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

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of the Secretary of State
St. Louis County Directors of Elections
Platte County Board of Elections
Monroe County Assessor
Kansas City Election Board
Buchanan County
Maries County R-1 School District
City of Kansas City, M
City of Keytesville



Kyle Rieman
Director

Ross Strobe
Assistant Director

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