

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1272 HB	Title: Voters' pamphlets
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2023-25		2025-27		2027-29	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available					
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other						
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Fiscal note not available											
Office of the Secretary of State	2.0	450,592	450,592	450,592	2.0	430,592	430,592	430,592	2.0	430,592	430,592	430,592
Total \$	2.0	450,592	450,592	450,592	2.0	430,592	430,592	430,592	2.0	430,592	430,592	430,592

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Office of the Secretary of State	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Gwen Stamey, OFM	Phone: (360) 790-1166	Date Published: Preliminary
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1272 HB	Title: Voters' pamphlets	Agency: 085-Office of the Secretary of State
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	235,296	215,296	450,592	430,592	430,592
Total \$	235,296	215,296	450,592	430,592	430,592

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Jason Zolle	Phone: 360-786-7124	Date: 01/13/2023
Agency Preparation: Mike Woods	Phone: (360) 704-5215	Date: 01/18/2023
Agency Approval: Mike Woods	Phone: (360) 704-5215	Date: 01/18/2023
OFM Review: Gwen Stamey	Phone: (360) 790-1166	Date: 01/19/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 1 makes minor wording changes. No impact.

Section 2 increases the fine a court may levy from \$2 to \$5 for each deceptive material that is distributed. No impact.

Section 3 provides clarification that any federal, statewide, legislative, or certain judicial offices that would appear in the Statewide Voter Pamphlet in an even-year would also appear in the Voter Pamphlet in an odd year. It also removes “on the cover” as a possible location for the Public Disclosure Contact information. No impact.

Section 4 adds graphs, charts, and photographs to the items not permitted. Not impact.

Section 5 makes minor wording changes. No Impact.

Section 6 adds authority that the Secretary of State may make an administrative decision to reject a statement or photograph without petitioning the Superior Court.

Section 7 adds restrictions on what submitted photographs for inclusion in the Voter Pamphlet may include.

Section 8 makes minor word changes and adds the County Auditor as required to allocate space for federal, statewide, legislative, and certain judicial offices in the Voter Pamphlet.

Section 9 and 10 requires counties to include all measures and candidates appearing on their ballot to appear in their local Voters’ Pamphlets.

Section 11 creates the authority for the Secretary of State to adopt standards to facilitate the production of local voters’ pamphlets.

Section 12 adds candidate statements and photographs to list of what should be included in the local voters’ pamphlets. It also removes the requirements for partisan primary elections.

Section 13 limits the statements that appear in the local voters’ pamphlets to only those accepted by the County Auditor.

Section 14 limits the distribution the local voter’s pamphlet to only those areas that are participating and leaves the County Auditor authority to make a decision if there is a more effective distribution of the pamphlet.

Section 15 clarifies that only those that reside in the district can be appointed to the committees writing for and against statements. It also provides clarity on what steps to take if the legislative authority of the district fails to make appointments, including a media release and publication of information on the County website.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

In order to facilitate the enhanced administrative process created by Section 6 and Section 7 as well as the new standards created by Section 11 OSOS would need two FTEs (a Program Specialist 4, and a Program Coordinator) for the adoption and maintenance of standards, support the review of statements and photos, as well as assisting candidates and committees with the remediation of any rejected statements or photos. Costs for compensation, standard goods and services, travel and one time office set up costs would be \$235,296 in FY24. Ongoing costs would be \$215,296 annually thereafter.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	235,296	215,296	450,592	430,592	430,592
Total \$			235,296	215,296	450,592	430,592	430,592

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
A-Salaries and Wages	123,276	123,276	246,552	246,552	246,552
B-Employee Benefits	51,684	51,684	103,368	103,368	103,368
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	11,700	11,700	23,400	23,400	23,400
G-Travel	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
J-Capital Outlays	25,000	5,000	30,000	10,000	10,000
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements	18,636	18,636	37,272	37,272	37,272
9-					
Total \$		235,296	215,296	450,592	430,592

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Program Coordinator	48,156	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Program Specialist 4	75,120	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total FTEs		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 1272 HB

Title: Voters' pamphlets

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities: Indeterminate cost to appoint persons to write arguments
- Counties: Indeterminate cost to appoint persons to write arguments; Indeterminate changes to voter pamphlet costs for County Auditors
- Special Districts: Indeterminate cost to appointment persons to write arguments
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option:
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: Reductions or additions to voter pamphlets; cost of appointing persons to write arguments

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 01/19/2023
Leg. Committee Contact: Jason Zolle	Phone: 360-786-7124	Date: 01/13/2023
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 01/19/2023
OFM Review: Gwen Stamey	Phone: (360) 790-1166	Date: 01/19/2023

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

SECTION 3. Creates voluntary submission of photograph and campaign contact information for inclusion in the voter's pamphlet during odd years for elections for specified offices that are vacant. Adjusts where public disclosure commission contact information shall be placed.

SECTION 4. Prohibits graphs, charts, cartoons or photographs from argument statements.

SECTION 5. Adjusts space and information guidance regarding the sections in voters pamphlets relating to advisory votes.

SECTION 6: Adds that all statements, arguments, and photographs are subject to approval if they do not comply with standards in this section or administrative rules. The standards are as follows:

A candidate's statements are limited to:

- Those about the candidate themselves
- Plans and goals for the future of the jurisdiction
- Direction on where to find more information about the candidate

A candidate or argument for or against a measure may not:

- Ask for contributions
- Make commercial solicitations

SECTION 7: No photograph may include hats, buttons, or clothing showing words, insignia or symbols.

SECTION 8: Adds that a county auditor is also obligated to allocate space in the pamphlet based on number of candidates or nominees for each office.

SECTION 9: A pamphlet shall provide information on all measures and candidates within that county.

SECTION 10: Requires all voters' pamphlets published in the county to include the elective offices and ballot measures of the entire county, and the elective offices and ballot measures of each unit of local government within the county. Removes any exceptions to this. Arguments, candidate statements, and photographs must be submitted to the county auditor of the county that accepted any resolutions or candidate filings for that jurisdiction. The auditor that receives this information shall provide it to the other county auditors after reviewing and accepting the submissions.

SECTION 11: Puts the burden of adopting administrative rules necessary to facilitate the production of a voters' pamphlet on the Secretary of State with consultation from the county auditors.

SECTION 12: A local voters' pamphlet must include candidate statements and photographs. Removes the requirement for a voters' pamphlet to include information on how to vote, the applicable ballot format, and an explanation that minor political party and independent candidates will only appear on the general election ballot.

SECTION 13: Local voters' pamphlets must include candidate statements that have been accepted by the county auditor.

SECTION 14: As soon as practicable before the primary, the county auditor shall mail the local voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction within the county participating in the primary or election for which election information is included.

SECTION 15: The legislative authority in a given jurisdiction must appoint persons that reside within the jurisdictional

boundaries to prepare arguments advocating for approval of the measure and advocating rejection of the measure.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would have an indeterminate impact upon local government expenditures, due to changes in voter pamphlet requirements. Some costs will increase by an indeterminate amount, while others will be reduced to an unknown extent. Others will change in a way that cannot be predicted in advance. Due to multiple unknown and competing variables, the impact of this bill cannot be determined precisely and the impact is indeterminate.

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH VOTER PAMPHLETS:

Certain costs associated with voter pamphlets are anticipated to increase in response to the provisions of this legislation. These increases will result from changes that require the county auditors to provide space in the pamphlet for all elective office, measures and candidates. In addition, changes will be made to the mailing of voter pamphlets in odd years and mailings to all residences before every primary of election.

Cost decreases may occur due to removal of requirements for pamphlets to include certain information and explanations. In addition, new standards will prohibit graphs, charts, photos, etc. and are anticipated to reduce printing costs by an indeterminate amount.

Changes will occur to standards for statements, arguments and photographs. In addition, space and information related to advisory votes will be changed. It is not known whether these changes will increase or decrease costs.

CHANGES TO AUDITOR OBLIGATIONS:

The adoption of administrative rules will be shifted from county auditors to the Secretary of State. While this is anticipated to reduce auditor costs, auditors will be consult with the Secretary of State on the new administrative rules and thus will incur indeterminate new costs. County auditors will be required to coordinate on providing statements to other auditors when applicable.

LOCAL JURISDICTION COSTS:

Local legislative authorities must appoint persons that reside within the jurisdictional boundaries to prepare arguments advocating for approval of the measure and advocating rejection of the measure. This will result in an indeterminate increase in costs related to such actions.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill has no cash receipts impact upon local governments.

SOURCES

Whatcom County Auditor's Office

Local Government Fiscal Note Program Fiscal Note SHB 1357 (2022)

Local Government Fiscal Note Program Fiscal Note SHB 1453 (2022)

Washington State Secretary of State's Office