

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5890 SB	Title: Ballot rejection
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

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
Office of the Secretary of State	2046.0	124,782	124,782	124,782	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
University of Washington	.0	9,694	9,694	9,694	.0	9,694	9,694	9,694	.0	0	0	0
Total \$	2,046.0	134,476	134,476	134,476	0.0	9,694	9,694	9,694	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									
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
Office of the Secretary of State	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
University of Washington	.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									
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

Prepared by: Cheri Keller, OFM

Phone:
(360) 584-2207

Date Published:
Final 1/10/2024

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5890 SB	Title: Ballot rejection	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	0.0	64,092.0	32,046.0	0.0	0.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	124,782	124,782	0	0
Total \$	0	124,782	124,782	0	0

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: Greg Vogel	Phone: 360-786-7413	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Preparation: Bonnie Luntzel	Phone: 360-570-5575	Date: 01/10/2024
Agency Approval: Mike Woods	Phone: (360) 704-5215	Date: 01/10/2024
OFM Review: Cheri Keller	Phone: (360) 584-2207	Date: 01/10/2024

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 3 (New Section)

Requires The Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) to adopt and review statewide signature verification standards to confirm the ballot declaration signatures match the signature on the voter registration record.

Requires OSOS to adopt, publish, and regularly update a training manual.

Requires OSOS to design and implement tools to ensure compliance with voter signature verification standards.

Section 4 (New Section)

Requires OSOS to design forms for voters to complete incomplete ballot declarations in the various languages required of state agencies. The form has specific requirements and county auditors will publish these forms on the county auditor's website and in the county auditor's office.

Section 9 & 10

Encourages the OSOS to design voter registration forms with multiple signature blocks.

Section 11 (New Section)

Requires the establishment of a work group, chaired by the secretary of state, or the secretary's designee, to approve a uniform ballot envelope design for use beginning in the 2026 primary.

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.

None.

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.

Section 3

OSOS adopts, publishes and reviews statewide signature verification standards, training and materials as part of our current processes. No fiscal impact.

Section 4

OSOS would seek to hire 1 FTE (196G, 48L - Graphic Designer Senior) for a one-year project (FY2025), to assist the Office in the design of the ballot curing forms for voters to use in completing incomplete ballot declarations, in the various languages required of state agencies. In this connection, the OSOS estimates that it will cost \$125,000 for the FTE and related costs.

Section 11

OSOS expects the work group to convene in January of 2025 and assumes the meetings would occur remotely and in the course of the participants' official duties. No fiscal impact.

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	0	124,782	124,782	0	0
Total \$			0	124,782	124,782	0	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		64,092.0	32,046.0		
A-Salaries and Wages		64,092	64,092		
B-Employee Benefits		26,284	26,284		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services		5,850	5,850		
G-Travel		2,500	2,500		
J-Capital Outlays		12,500	12,500		
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements		13,556	13,556		
9-					
Total \$	0	124,782	124,782	0	0

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
Graphic Designer Senior 196G	64,092		64,092.0	32,046.0		
Total FTEs			64,092.0	32,046.0		0.0

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

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.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5890 SB	Title: Ballot rejection	Agency: 360-University of Washington
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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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	9,694	9,694	9,694	0
Total \$	0	9,694	9,694	9,694	0

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: Greg Vogel	Phone: 360-786-7413	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Preparation: Michael Lantz	Phone: 2065437466	Date: 01/05/2024
Agency Approval: Jed Bradley	Phone: 2066164684	Date: 01/05/2024
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 01/08/2024

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.

Senate bill 5890 relates to efforts to reduce election ballot rejection rates. Section 11 is relevant to the University of Washington (UW) and requires the establishment of a workgroup to approve a uniform ballot envelopment design to be used by all counties starting with the 2026 primary election. The work group will be chaired by the Secretary of State's Office but is required to include a representative from the UW's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. This provision sunsets on January 1, 2027.

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.

The UW generally assumes participation by a faculty or staff member in a work group will require .03 of an FTE per year. This estimate includes time for a monthly one-hour meeting as well as time for preparation or travel. In this case the expected work group member from UW is a professor with the Evans School (annual salary: \$263,578; benefits rate: 22.6%). The work group is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2027. However, it is expected that the work group will complete most of its work before then and therefore any costs to the University in FY27 can be absorbed using existing resources.

Overall, the impact to the UW from this measure is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year.

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	0	9,694	9,694	9,694	0
Total \$			0	9,694	9,694	9,694	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		0.0	0.0	0.0	
A-Salaries and Wages		7,907	7,907	7,907	
B-Employee Benefits		1,787	1,787	1,787	
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services					
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	0	9,694	9,694	9,694	0

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
Professor	263,578		0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total FTEs			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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: 5890 SB

Title: Ballot rejection

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

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities:
- Counties: could experience indeterminate changes to auditors' and election staff's workload
- Special Districts:
- 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: impacts to auditors' workloads

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: Kate Fernald	Phone: 564-200-3519	Date: 01/09/2024
Leg. Committee Contact: Greg Vogel	Phone: 360-786-7413	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 01/09/2024
OFM Review: Cheri Keller	Phone: (360) 584-2207	Date: 01/09/2024

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

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

The proposed legislation would update processes with the goal of reducing ballot rejection rates through updates to ballot curing, canvassing, reporting, and outreach processes.

Sec. 1 would amend RCW 29A.60.165.

Sec. 1 (1-2) If the voter neglects to sign the ballot declaration, or if the ballot signature is different from the one on file, and the auditor has the necessary contact info on file, then the auditor would be required to call, text or email the voter to tell them it is not signed and the corrective procedures.

Sec. 1 (3) If the auditor calls a voter who neglected to sign the ballot declaration or whose signature on the ballot declaration does not match the signature in the registration file and the voter does not answer, but voice mail is available, the auditor would be required to leave a voice mail message.

Sec. 1 (4) An auditor who provides electronic means for submission of a ballot declaration signature would be required to establish appropriate protocols that ensure that the information transmitted is received directly and securely by the auditor and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the signature on the voter's ballot.

Sec. 2 would add a new section to chapter 29A.08 RCW that would encourage state auditors to contact each registered voter to obtain an updated signature for the voter's registration file after election results are certified.

Sec. 4 would add a new section to chapter 29A.60 RCW to specify that the Secretary of State shall design voter forms, and the county auditors must provide them on their websites and in their offices.

Sec. 5 would add a new section to chapter 29A.60 RCW requiring each county auditor to develop an outreach plan to educate voters on ballot signatures and ballot processing.

Sec. 6 would amend RCW 29A.40.091 to add one requirement to the declaration requirements (that signature declarations will be compared to the signature on file).

Sec. 7 would amend RCW 29A.40.110 to require each county auditor to publish on its website the names of all canvassing board members who received training on statewide standards for signature verification, and the date each person completed the training.

Sec. 8 would amend RCW 29A.60.140 to require County Canvassing Board Meetings to be published on the county's website, in libraries and in other community locations, and would require meetings to be conducted at times and locations accessible to the public.

Sec. 11 would add a new section to chapter 29A.60 RCW that would require counties to use uniform ballots designed by the uniform ballot workgroup by the 2026 primary election.

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.

Counties could experience indeterminate workload impacts resulting from the proposed legislation; however, such expenditure impacts are indeterminate until additional information is available.

Until additional information is available, the Local Government Fiscal Note Program cannot determine workload impacts, such as increasing or reducing election staff time required to:

- contact voters who neglected to sign their ballots;
- answer questions voters have when contacted by auditors;
- create and implement a voter outreach and education campaign;
- publish each county's canvassing board members' training dates; and
- work and training required to implement uniform ballots designed by the uniform ballot workgroup.

Therefore, the proposed legislation's expenditure impact is indeterminate at this time.

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.

The proposed legislation would not impact local governments' revenue.