

# Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

|                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Bill Number:</b> 6269 SB | <b>Title:</b> Alt. voter verification |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|

## Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

| Agency Name         | 2023-25          |       | 2025-27   |       | 2027-29   |       |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                     | GF- State        | Total | GF- State | Total | GF- State | Total |
| Local Gov. Courts   |                  |       |           |       |           |       |
| Loc School dist-SPI |                  |       |           |       |           |       |
| Local Gov. Other    | No fiscal impact |       |           |       |           |       |
| 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 |
| Office of the Secretary of State | Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion. |          |             |       |         |          |             |       |         |          |             |       |
| <b>Total \$</b>                  | 0.0  | 0        | 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    | No fiscal impact |          |       |         |          |       |         |          |       |
| 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     |
| <b>Total \$</b>                  | 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    | No fiscal impact |          |       |         |          |       |         |          |       |
| Local Gov. Total    |                  |          |       |         |          |       |         |          |       |

## Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

|                                       |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Prepared by:</b> Cheri Keller, OFM | <b>Phone:</b><br>(360) 584-2207 | <b>Date Published:</b><br>Final 1/25/2024 |
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# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

|                             |                                       |   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Bill Number:</b> 6269 SB | <b>Title:</b> Alt. voter verification | <b>Agency:</b> 085-Office of the Secretary of State |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|

## Part I: Estimates

**No Fiscal Impact**

**Estimated Cash Receipts to:**

NONE

**Estimated Operating Expenditures from:**

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

**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: 01/18/2024 |
| Agency Preparation: Bonnie Luntzel | Phone: 360-570-5575   | Date: 01/25/2024 |
| Agency Approval: Mike Woods        | Phone: (360) 704-5215 | Date: 01/25/2024 |
| OFM Review: Cheri Keller           | Phone: (360) 584-2207 | Date: 01/25/2024 |

## 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.*

Sec. 1 would add a new section to chapter 29A.40 RCW.

Sec. 1(1) would require the Secretary of State to establish the alternative verification options pilot project. The purpose of the pilot project is to allow for the development and testing of supplemental methods, other than signature verification, to verify that a ballot was filled out and returned by the intended voter.

Sec. 1(2) would require the office of the secretary of state to approve the county auditor's application before the county can participate in the pilot project.

Sec. 1(2)(d) a county would be allowed to participate in the pilot project during multiple special election dates, however, the county auditor would be required to submit a separate application for approval by the office of the secretary of state each special election date.

Sec. 1(2)(e) would require the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) to review the feasibility of each proposed alternative verification method and whether each proposed method complies with project requirements.

Sec. 1(2)(f) the Secretary of State would be allowed to establish additional rules governing application content, submittal, and the approval process, including deadlines for the submittal and approval of applications before each special election.

Sec. 1(4)(b) would require the Secretary of State to provide reports on the progress of the pilot project to the Governor, the Legislature, and county auditors no later than December 31st of each year.

Sec. 1(4)(c) would require the Secretary of State to provide a final report on the alternative verification options pilot project to the governor, appropriate committees of the legislature, and county auditors no later than December 31, 2028.

Sec. 2(3) would allow a county participating in the pilot to also verify a voter's ballot using an alternative verification method approved by the OSOS.

Sec. 3 sets an expiration date of January 1, 2029.

### 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.*

The cost of establishing and managing the alternative verification pilot project, in Section 1 is indeterminate. Cost will be a function of the type of alternative verification methods proposed by counties. The OSOS does not know how many counties would submit applications to participate in pilot, nor does the office know what types of alternative verification methods would be proposed.

The OSOS would be able to absorb the cost of establishing the alternative verification options if the alternative verification options are in-line with the OSOS standards and procedures for the examination and testing of alternative verification systems. However, if manual alternative verification systems are proposed, the OSOS would not be able to absorb the cost. Consequently, the OSOS is not be able to provide the fiscal impact related to the establishment of manual alternative verification systems.

If OSOS receives applications from counties to participate in the pilot and those proposals would require manual alternate verification systems, OSOS would review those requests to estimate cost and would likely submit a budget request for those cost.

If the alternative verification method or methods to be used would require modifications to VoteWA, OSOS estimates it could take approximately 300 hours of development time at \$200 per hour, for a total cost of \$60,000. Additionally, the design and user interface of VoteWA would need to be altered to accommodate these additional changes, necessitating design and usability consultants. Approximately 500 hours of design, usability, and accessibility testing would be needed to verify functionality of these changes, for a total cost of \$87,500. OSOS would use contractors for these services. The total project fiscal impact could be \$147,500 in State Fiscal Year 2025.

Depending on the alternative verification methodologies being piloted, county elections officials and observers may need specialized training related to the use of the methodologies. Training may be accomplished with one program specialist 4 (0.5 FTE; Range 56; Step L; Salary: \$78,120). Annual costs for compensation and standard goods and services are \$66,910.

### Part III: Expenditure Detail

#### III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

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

#### III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

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

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

NONE

#### 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.*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

**Bill Number:** 6269 SB

**Title:** Alt. voter verification

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

### Legislation Impacts:

- Cities:
- Counties:
- Special Districts:
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

## Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option: Counties would have a local option to participate in the alternative voter verification options pilot program.
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

### Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

### Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

## Part III: Preparation and Approval

|                                    |                       |                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Fiscal Note Analyst: Kate Fernald  | Phone: 564-200-3519   | Date: 01/23/2024 |
| Leg. Committee Contact: Greg Vogel | Phone: 360-786-7413   | Date: 01/18/2024 |
| Agency Approval: Allan Johnson     | Phone: 360-725-5033   | Date: 01/23/2024 |
| OFM Review: Cheri Keller           | Phone: (360) 584-2207 | Date: 01/23/2024 |

## **Part IV: Analysis**

### **A. SUMMARY OF BILL**

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

Sec. 1. would add a new section to chapter 29A.40 RCW.

(1) would require the Secretary of State (SOS) to establish the alternative verification options pilot project. The purpose of the pilot project would be to allow for the development and testing of supplemental methods, other than signature verification, to verify that a ballot was filled out and returned by the intended voter.

(2) would allow any county to apply to participate in the pilot project. The county auditor would be required to submit an application to the SOS. The SOS would be required to approve the county auditor's application before the county could be allowed to participate in the pilot project.

(2)(a) outlines what the auditor's application would be required to include:

- (i) The alternative verification method(s) the county auditor plans to utilize, and how the method or methods comply with the requirements of (b) of this subsection;
- (ii) Details on how the proposed alternative verification method(s) will be implemented; and
- (iii) Which election the county plans to use the proposed alternative verification method or methods in.

(2)(b) Each proposed alternative verification method would be required to:

- (i) Allow the voter to submit clear evidence which can be verified by the county auditor indicating that the intended voter was the one who filled out and returned the ballot;
- (ii) Establish criteria for determining accepted and failed verifications; and
- (iii) Require the voter to attest to the ballot declaration.

(2)(c) would stipulate when counties can participate in the pilot project.

(2)(d) would limit each application to participate in the pilot project to the special election or elections held on a single date. A county would be allowed to participate in the pilot project during multiple special election dates, but the county auditor would be required to submit a separate application for approval by the SOS for each special election date.

(2)(e) would require the SOS to review each application analyzing the feasibility of each proposed alternative verification method and whether each proposed method complies with the requirements of (b) of this subsection before determining whether to approve or deny the application.

(3) would detail when a county participating in the pilot project may use the alternative verification project, and the participating county's required actions.

(4)(a) would list counties' required actions after the certification of each special election when they are participating in the pilot project.

Sec. 2 would amend RCW 29A.40.110 to add that a county participating in the alternative verification options pilot project may also verify a voter's ballot using an alternative verification method approved by the office of the secretary of state.

### **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 legislation would provide counties with a local option to apply for the alternative voter verification options pilot project. Because these measures would be elective, they would not create a local government fiscal impact.



## **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.

### **SOURCES:**

Washington State Association of County Auditors