

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5382 SB	Title: Ballot measure petitions
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available					
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	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	3.1	1,204,000	1,204,000	1,204,000	3.1	716,000	716,000	716,000	3.1	716,000	716,000	716,000
Total \$	3.1	1,204,000	1,204,000	1,204,000	3.1	716,000	716,000	716,000	3.1	716,000	716,000	716,000

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	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	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	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	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	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	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

Prepared by: Marie Davis, OFM	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date Published: Preliminary 1/28/2025
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5382 SB	Title: Ballot measure petitions	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 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	846,000	358,000	1,204,000	716,000	716,000
Total \$	846,000	358,000	1,204,000	716,000	716,000

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: William Bridges	Phone: 360-786-7367	Date: 01/20/2025
Agency Preparation: Bonnie Luntzel	Phone: 360-704-5262	Date: 01/23/2025
Agency Approval: Tim Gallivan	Phone: (360) 763-2044	Date: 01/23/2025
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 01/28/2025

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 5382 updates requirements pertaining to signatures and address of ballot measure petitioners and petition signature gatherers.

Sections 1 and 2 add to Chapter 29A.72 RCW requiring each petition signature gatherer circulating an initiative or referendum petition to sign a declaration contained on each sheet of the petition under penalty of false swearing.

Additionally, sections 1 and 6 (1)(a) determine that the Secretary of State verify that the petitioner's residence address on the petition or paper is the same as the residence address on the affidavit of registration for purposes of verifying a signature on an initiative or referendum petition.

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.

No Impact.

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 proposed legislation in Sections 1 and 6(1)(a) introduces new requirements for verifying the residence address of petitioners on initiative and referendum petitions. This includes confirming that the residence address provided matches the voter's registration record. To comply with these requirements, the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) anticipates additional costs due to system modifications, increased staff workloads, and operational changes.

The new requirements will reduce verification efficiency from 36 signatures per hour to 20 signatures per hour, necessitating increased staffing to meet statutory deadlines. Additionally, these changes heighten the likelihood of petitions failing the 3% random sampling process, which triggers a full check of all submitted signatures. While costs are dependent on the number of signatures submitted, OSOS recommends sponsors submit at least 386,000 signatures for initiatives and 193,000 for referendums to ensure statistical validity.

The projected costs are outlined below:

Staffing Needs:

- 2.8 FTE – Office Assistant 1 (OA1): Beginning in FY 2026 and ongoing these positions will manually verify petition signatures and address Annual salaries and benefits: \$183,570, rounded to \$184,000 for reporting purposes.
- 0.3 FTE – Management Analyst 3: Beginning in FY 2026 and ongoing these positions streamline workflows, assist with OA1 recruitment, and monitor compliance with the legislation.
- Annual salaries and benefits: \$31,561, rounded to \$32,000 for reporting purposes.

Contracting Costs:

- The OSOS estimates that implementing the requirements of this section would require approximately 300 hours of

development work at a rate of \$252 per hour, resulting in a total development cost of \$76,500, rounded to \$77,000 for reporting purposes.

In addition, modifications to the VoteWA system’s design and user interface will be necessary to support usability and accessibility of the program. additional language options. This would involve hiring design and usability consultants, with an estimated 500 hours dedicated to design, usability, and accessibility testing. The associated cost for these services is estimated at \$87,500, rounded to \$88,000 for reporting purposes. OSOS intends to engage contractors for these tasks.

Other operational costs include:

- Goods and Services: One-time \$218,000 (29 staff x \$7,500 = \$217,500, rounded to \$218,000 for reporting purposes) in FY 2026 to cover workspace setup, including furniture, and equipment. Additionally, due to the number of staff required on-site, OSOS estimates an additional need of \$5,000 for facility costs.
- Capital Outlays: One-time \$44,000 (29 staff x \$1,500 = \$43,500, rounded to 44,000 for reporting purposes) for capitalized equipment procurement, such as computers for new staff.
- OSOS incorporates standard costs into its estimates, including \$29,000 per FTE annually for goods and services (Object E). These costs cover an average employee's supplies, communications, training, and subscription expenses. An administrative allocation rate of 15% is included (Object T) and is calculated based on OSOS cost allocation processes.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	846,000	358,000	1,204,000	716,000	716,000
Total \$			846,000	358,000	1,204,000	716,000	716,000

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
A-Salaries and Wages	143,000	143,000	286,000	286,000	286,000
B-Employee Benefits	73,000	73,000	146,000	146,000	146,000
C-Professional Service Contracts	164,000		164,000		
E-Goods and Other Services	312,000	95,000	407,000	190,000	190,000
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays	44,000		44,000		
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements	110,000	47,000	157,000	94,000	94,000
9-					
Total \$	846,000	358,000	1,204,000	716,000	716,000

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 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Management Analyst 3	76,608	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Office Assistant 1	42,696	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Total FTEs		3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1

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

No Impact.

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: 5382 SB

Title: Ballot measure petitions

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:
- ☐ 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: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 01/27/2025
Leg. Committee Contact: William Bridges	Phone: 360-786-7367	Date: 01/20/2025
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 01/27/2025
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 01/28/2025

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

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

Sections 1 and 2 add to Chapter 29A.72 RCW requiring each petition signature gatherer circulating an initiative or referendum petition to sign a declaration contained on each sheet of the petition under penalty of false swearing.

Additionally, sections 1 and 6 (1)(a) determine that the Secretary of State verify that the petitioner's residence address on the petition or paper is the same as the residence address on the affidavit of registration for purposes of verifying a signature on an initiative or referendum petition.

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 does not affect county election administration. Any fiscal impact would fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Secretary of State.

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 legislation would not impact local government revenue.

SOURCES:

Washington Association of County Auditors

Office of the Secretary of State