Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1713 HB	**Title:** Automatic voter reg./tribes

Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

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
Office of the Secretary of State	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Total $	**0.0**	**0**	**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									
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	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
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									
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: Marie Davis, OFM	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date Published: Final 2/15/2025

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1713 HB	Title: Automatic voter reg./tribes	Agency: 085-Office of the Secretary of State

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:
NONE

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.

[X] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Connor Schiff	Phone: 360-786-7093	Date: 02/04/2025
Agency Preparation:	Bonnie Luntzel	Phone: 360-704-5262	Date: 02/07/2025
Agency Approval:	Tim Gallivan	Phone: (360) 763-2044	Date: 02/07/2025
OFM Review:	Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 02/15/2025

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.

Section 2

- (1) authorizes the secretary of state to enter into state-tribal compacts with tribes for the purposes of automatic voter registration of members of a tribe.
- (2) mandates the secretary of state to establish an application and approval process, procedures, and timelines for negotiation, approval or disapproval, and execution of state-tribal compacts for the purposes of automatic registration of the members of a tribe no later than six months after July 1, 2025.
- (3) allows the process in Section 2 (2) to be initiated by submission, to the secretary of state, of a resolution by the governing body of a tribe.
- (4) requires the secretary of state to convene a government-to-government meeting for the purpose of considering the resolution, application and initiating negotiation within 90 days of receipt of a resolution and application.
- (5) warrants the secretary of state to adopt rules necessary to implement chapter 29A.08 RCW.

Section 6

- (4) empowers the secretary of state and the relevant agency to jointly determine the cause of voter registration for a person who is ineligible to vote. It also proposes that a person employed by the state or county government tasked with assisting the public with voter registration be subjected to the penalties of RCW 29A.84.110 should they intentionally register ineligible persons.

The Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) Elections team has reviewed this bill and determined it will not increase or decrease the current workloads, therefore, no fiscal impact to OSOS.

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.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

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

Part V: New Rule Making Required

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

Section 2 (5) requires the office of the secretary of state to adopt rules necessary to implement chapter 29A.08 RCW. This will require a new WAC chapter in Title 434.

The Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) estimates that the combined effort to implement these changes would total fewer than 50 hours of work, allowing the agency to absorb the task within existing operations.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 1713 HB	**Title:** Automatic voter reg./tribes

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

Legislation Impacts:

☐ Cities:

☒ Counties: County auditors could incur annual but likely minimal costs to print, mail, and pay for return postage of automatically registered voters' acknowledgement notice packages.

☐ 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: Number of automatically registered voters that will need to be mailed acknowledgement notices; number of registrants that will return the acknowledgement notice; number of phone calls auditors will receive from automatically registered voters.

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: 02/11/2025
Leg. Committee Contact: Connor Schiff	Phone: 360-786-7093	Date: 02/04/2025
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 02/11/2025
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 02/15/2025

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

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

The proposed legislation would establish automatic voter registration for tribal members.

Sec. 3 would add a new section to chapter 29A.08 RCW.
The Office of the Secretary of State would be required to establish automatic voter registration for tribal members. Registrations would be marked as automatic voter registrations.

Sec. 4 would amend RCW 29A.08.110.
For voters utilizing automatic voter registration services under section 3 of this act, within five business days after the receipt of an application, or, if the application is received after the deadline to register to vote or update a voter registration under RCW 29A.08.140(1)(a), within five business days after the election, the auditor shall send an automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice package as required by RCW 29A.08.030.

Sec. 5 would add a new section to chapter 29A.08 RCW.
(1)(c) For new or updated voter registrations, auditors would be required to:
-- send an automatic voter registration acknowledgement notice package within five business days of the original application; or
-- if the information is received after the deadline to register to vote or update a voter registration under RCW 29A.08.140(1)(a), within five business days after the election.

(1)(d) Auditors would be allowed to communicate with potential and registered voters by, but not limited to, email, phone, or text messaging. The alternate form of communication must not be in lieu of the mail requirements.

(2) If an application is incomplete, the auditor shall promptly mail a verification notice to the applicant.
-- The verification notice must require the applicant to provide the missing information.
-- If the applicant provides the required information within 45 days, the applicant must be registered to vote.

(4)(a) For new registrants who decline registration in a reply that is received by the auditor within 15 days from the date of mailing of the automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice package, the voter registration record shall be removed from the list of registered voters, and the person is deemed to have never registered to vote.

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.

The legislation would cause indeterminate but likely minimal fiscal impacts to county auditors as a result of increasing automatic voter registrations. For each new automatically registered voter, Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA) estimates that county auditors could incur approximately $10 in staff time, $1.03 in acknowledgement notice printing and postage costs, and $0.69 in prepaid return postage costs. However, the number of new voter registrations that will be received, the number of packages that will need to be mailed, the number of registrants who will decline voter registration and the amount of time that is required by staff to address acknowledgement notice packages cannot be predicted. Therefore, the cost estimates below are ultimately indeterminate and subject to change.

PRINTING AND POSTAGE COSTS
Counties total cost to print, mail and pay for returned acknowledgement notice postage is indeterminate since the number of notices that will need to be mailed, and the number of returned notices that may be mailed back to auditors, is unknown. However, for illustrative purposes, WSACA estimated the printing cost of each notice by using the Office of the Secretary of the State's (OSOS's) printing costs from PSB 5636 (2022)'s fiscal note, except that postage is updated to the 2025 cost: $0.73. Additionally, OSOS's fiscal note states it uses historical costs for similar types of mailings to estimate

printing costs.

Itemized cost to print and mail acknowledgement notices:
$0.08 to print the notice
$0.11 to print outbound envelope
$0.11 to print the prepaid return envelope
$0.73 for postage cost (as of February 2025)
Total: $1.03 per notice sent.

Additionally, county auditors would pay postage costs of $0.69 for each prepaid returned notice. However, since the number of prepaid return notices that may be mailed back to auditors is unknown, auditors' total cost for prepaid return notice postage is indeterminate.

COUNTY AUDITOR STAFF IMPACTS
Counties' staff time required per automatically registered voter would cost counties approximately costs resulting from $10 (15 minutes of staff time) per automatically registered voter, according to WSACA. However, because the number of voters that would be automatically registered is unknown, county auditor staff impacts are indeterminate but likely minimal.

Estimating Staff Hourly Salary:
Because different staff among election offices will handle acknowledgement packages, WSACA estimates an average staff salary of $40 per hour including benefits. For the purposes of this fiscal note LGFN assumes 2080 is the total number of hours a full-time employee (FTE) will work each year.

Estimating Cost of Staff Time:
WSACA estimates 15 minutes of staff time would be required per automatically registered voter (regardless of if they call, do nothing or decline to vote) because each registrant will have to be attended to for a 15-day period. However, because the number of automatically registered voters that will need to be attended to is unknown, exact costs cannot be determined, but WSACA expects they will be minimal.

For informational purposes, WSACA shared example tasks auditors complete for automatically registered voters:
-- Auditors have to review each automatically registered voter application to see if all required application materials are included.
-- If the application is incomplete, missing documents must be identified, and notice must be sent to the registrant.
-- If the application is complete, the bill would require auditors to mail acknowledgement notice packages, and monitor if the registrant responds to the package within 15 days.

WSACA is unaware of any monitoring software that will monitor registrant's response deadlines, so monitoring for the various number of days registrants have to respond to the acknowledgement notices will have to be created at the local level. One county would use an excel spreadsheet, which means each registered voter applicant's information would have to be entered into the excel spreadsheet after the package is mailed.

-- If the registrant does not respond after 15 days, the auditor will remove the voter's name from the spreadsheet, then log into Voter WA and add the registrant to the voter rolls.
-- If the registrant wants to be removed and responds within the 15 days to do so, then the auditor will remove them from the spreadsheet and remove them from the voter rolls.
-- WSACA anticipates a percentage of automatically registered voters will call auditors with questions, but WSACA expects this would be a de minimis impact.

Accordingly, for each new automatically registered voter, county auditors could incur approximately $10 in staff time, $1.03 in acknowledgement notice printing and postage costs, and $0.69 in prepaid return postage costs. However, because the number of automatically registered voters that will be received is unknown, the proposed legislation's cost impact to county expenditures is indeterminate but likely minimal.

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 government revenue.

SOURCES:
Office of the Secretary of State Fiscal Note PSB 5636 (2022)
Washington State Association of County Auditors