

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1916 E S HB	Title: Voter registrations
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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	.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	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 3/ 2/2026
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1916 E S HB	Title: Voter registrations	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:

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.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Danielle Creech	Phone: 360-786-7412	Date: 02/13/2026
Agency Preparation: Bonnie Luntzel	Phone: 360-704-5262	Date: 02/18/2026
Agency Approval: Tim Gallivan	Phone: (360) 763-2044	Date: 02/18/2026
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 02/20/2026

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.

BILL ANALYSIS:

- Section 1(3) allows a signed statement asserting a voter is deceased to be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) and requires confirmation by the county auditor or the OSOS before the voter's registration may be removed from the official state voter registration list.
- Section 3(c)(ii) requires use of a form provided by OSOS for the certified letter used as due diligence evidence in certain address-based voter registration challenges.
- Section 6(3)(a) requires the challenged voter notice to be in a form provided by OSOS.
- Section 6(4)(a) requires the Secretary of State to create a standard form for hearing notification by mail and email.
- Section 7(1) requires OSOS to provide forms for voter registration challenges (and allows an official electronic voter challenge form template provided by the auditor or OSOS that is printed and signed for submission).

NO FISCAL IMPACT:

OSOS will develop and distribute standardized templates for voter registration challenges, challenged voter notifications, and hearing notification forms using existing resources. 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.

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.

None

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

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: 1916 E S HB

Title: Voter registrations

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: Kate Fernald	Phone: 564-200-3519	Date: 02/23/2026
Leg. Committee Contact: Danielle Creech	Phone: 360-786-7412	Date: 02/13/2026
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 02/23/2026
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 03/02/2026

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

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

This fiscal note compares the engrossed substitute to the original version of the bill.

CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:

The engrossed substitute bill would clarify that a county auditor is required to cancel a voter's registration if they receive official, verifiable information from an elections office in another state that the voter has registered to vote in that state "more recently than in Washington."

The engrossed substitute would not change the local government fiscal impacts discussed below.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL:

The proposed legislation would amend county auditors' processes for handling voter registration challenges.

Sec. 1 would amend RCW 29A.08.510.

It would clarify that only upon receipt of a signed statement from a registered voter that says that to the best of the person's knowledge, another registered voter is deceased may the voter's registration be removed from the official state voter registration list.

Sec. 2 would amend RCW 29A.08.630.

The county auditor would be required to cancel an inactive voter registration when:

- (a) the auditor receives and confirms information under RCW 29A.08.510 that a voter has died;
- (b) the auditor receives information that the voter registered to vote in another state; or
- (c) the auditor receives a signed, written notification from the voter that the voter moved out of state, or that the voter wishes to have their registration canceled. The auditor shall verify that the signature on the notification matches the signature in the voter registration file prior to cancelling the registration.

Sec. 3 would amend RCW 29A.08.810.

The personal knowledge required to challenge a person's right to vote would be amended. The proposed legislation would also allow a registered voter from the same county to challenge another registered voter if the person files a completed voter registration challenge form. The challenger would be required to file a separate affidavit for each voter whose registration is challenged, subject to the penalties of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW. Each affidavit would be required to be signed in ink, not electronically.

Sec. 5 would amend RCW 29A.08.835.

The county auditor would have 10 business days to publish the entire content of a voter challenge on the auditor's website, rather than the three-day limit that they have currently. Additionally, the bill would allow the voter challenge to be removed from the website 45 days following the dismissal or completion of the challenge.

Sec. 6 would amend RCW 29A.08.840.

Auditors would be required, rather than allowed, to dismiss a voter challenge if it is not in proper form or if the facts do not meet the requirements for a legal challenge.

It would also allow county auditors to conduct an initial review of the merits of a voter challenge. If the auditor determines that the challenge is more likely than not to lack merit, then the county auditor may dismiss the challenge. The challenger may refile the challenge with additional evidence. The proposed legislation would also outline all materials that county auditors would be required to provide to a challenged voter, and to any person upon request.

Sec. 8 would amend RCW 29A.08.135.

A county auditor who receives information from an elections office in another state would be required to remove the voter's registration from the official state voter registration list when the auditor receives verifiable information from an elections office in another state that a voter has registered to vote in that state more recently than in Washington.

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.

Local governments would experience a de minimis impact as a result of the proposed legislation. County auditors' processes would change for voter registration challenges, but any additional time required to complete the new processes would be minimal, according to the Washington State Association of County Auditors. As such, the local government fiscal impact is de minimis.

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:

HB 1916 (2025) Local Government Fiscal Note

Washington State Association of County Auditors