

PREPARED BY: Scott Danigole  
 DATE PREPARED: March 07, 2023  
 PHONE: 402-471-0055

# LB 604

Revision: 00

## FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2023-24</b>		<b>FY 2024-25</b>	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$148,100		\$38,500	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>		<b>\$38,500</b>	

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

LB 604 provides for registered voters to make requests for an early voting ballot on the Secretary of State's (SoS) website. Election commissioners or county clerks shall establish a permanent list of voters requesting early voting ballots and send such voters an email, text, or postcard prior to each subsequent election asking if the voter would like to receive an early voting ballot. Ballot materials shall include a postage-paid and preaddressed envelope.

The SoS estimates the cost to create the required website/portal for early voting ballot requests to be a total of \$148,100 in fiscal year 2023-24 with ongoing costs of \$38,500 for the texting functionality for coordination with counties. There is no basis to disagree with these estimates.

Under the provisions of LB 604 each county is required to provide postage-paid, preaddressed return envelopes to early voters. The costs for each county will vary under the provisions of LB 604 and will be dependent on the number of early voters for any given election. The SoS estimates a statewide cost to counties of nearly \$300,000 with individual county costs ranging from \$100 to over \$81,000. There is no basis to disagree with this estimate.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: <b>604</b>	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: <b>Secretary of State</b>	
REVIEWED BY: Kimberly Burns	DATE: 03/07/2023	PHONE: (402) 471-4171	
COMMENTS: Assuming the email and text costs are covered by the Secretary of State for the county clerks' offices, the Secretary of State's estimate of fiscal impact from LB 604 appears reasonable.			

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**2023**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 604**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Secretary of State

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Joan Arnold Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 3-3-2023 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-2384

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	\$148,100		\$38,500	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>\$148,100</u>		<u>\$38,500</u>	

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB604 requires the creation of a website/portal for early voting ballot requests, as well as the ability to email and text voters to notify them of receipt of an early ballot. Our vendor estimates the ballot request website would cost \$100,200 to create and the email notifications would cost \$9,400. Our vendor does not have the ability for text notifications, so we reached out to a different vendor, which estimated \$38,500 per year ongoing for the texting functionality.

LB604 also requires the counties to provide postage paid early voting ballot return envelopes. Based on historic postage costs, we estimate the additional costs to the counties at nearly \$300,000 statewide, with individual county costs ranging from \$100 in the smallest county (Arthur) to over \$81,000 in the largest county (Douglas). This funding is not included in our fiscal estimate, but is unlikely to be available in the existing county budgets.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....				
Operating.....			\$148,100	\$38,500
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
<b>TOTAL.....</b>			<u>\$148,100</u>	<u>\$38,500</u>