

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR McCamley/Candelaria ORIGINAL DATE 3/3/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 405

SHORT TITLE Same-Day Voter Registration SB _____

ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Recurring	SOS Operating Budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Conflicts with HB 496

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

Association of County Clerks (ACC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 405 allows a voter to register to vote and cast a ballot at early and election day voting sites during primary and general elections. HB 496 provides that a voter who registers and votes on the same day will be allowed to vote on a regular ballot if the polling site has real-time access to the statewide voter registration system and on a provisional ballot if the site does not.

The bill does not allow a voter to change party when registering at an early or election day voting site during a primary election.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The SOS reports that the current voter registration system, VREMS, cannot support more than 250 concurrent users without a significant upgrade. There are 110 early voting locations and 750 election day voting sites statewide. If the provisions of HB 405 are enacted, the SOS would have to either upgrade the VREMS system or increase reliance on provisional ballots. Both of these options will result in increased costs to the SOS, these costs have not been quantified at this time.

The ACC relates that allowing individuals to register to vote and vote on the same day at a polling location may require additional staff to be hired. The ACC states that the per-day cost to bring in an additional poll worker is approximately \$200. The ACC did not provide an estimate of how many additional poll workers may be required.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB 405 may result in temporary poll workers working to verify voter registration information which would allow the worker access to sensitive personal information including social security numbers, full date of birth, and addresses. This may create privacy and security concerns for individuals registering to vote same day.

CJ/je/aml