

(Prepare in triplicate)

FISCAL NOTE

Prepared in regard to:

House Bill No. 1138

(List bill or resolution and number, if available, or subject)

Amendment to:

(List bill or resolution and number)

Requested by:

Secretary of State

Date of receipt:

December 28, 19 78

In the following space note the fiscal effect in dollars of the legislative proposal. If additional space is needed, attach a supplementary sheet. (Please type)

Under the proposed House Bill No. 1138, the secretary of state is charged with the responsibility of administering the election laws of the state. That responsibility includes: Supervising the elections; examining any ballot, material, machine, or device used in the election; developing and implementing training programs for all election officials; publishing and distributing a political calendar, an election procedures manual, and a legislative district map; convene an annual state election conference to discuss uniform application of election policies; investigate non-performance of duties or election law violations; establish new accounting procedures for all election expenses by the state; pay expenses to an advisory board; and hire additional personnel to administer the law. It is the conservative estimate of this office that the additional duties could easily cost an additional \$177,000 (itemized below) to implement the additional duties as required with the bill.

After conversing with the county auditors concerning election costs for the general election of 1978, the secretary of state's office makes the following observations concerning compensation for election board workers. The past election cost the counties alone approximately \$400,000 under the current compensation statute. They hired 8168 election board workers. Most boards had five persons, but some boards had more than five persons working. There are 1604 precincts in the state. Approximately 85% of the election board workers received the minimum of \$12.00 for a very long day of work. Some election board workers received more compensation as a result of the total number of voters within the precinct. A few of the election board workers received the maximum allowed by law.

Overall, the election boards were paid approximately \$120,000 for their wages, return of the poll books and ballots, and mileage. With 234,712 voters going to the polls, the cost per vote for the State of North Dakota is approximately \$1.70.

Salary and Benefits	\$ 85,000
Fees and Services	35,000
Supplies and Materials	50,000
Furniture and Equipment	7,000
Total:	<u>\$177,000</u>

Signed *Ben Meier*

Typed Name BEN MEIER

Date Prepared: January 5, 1979

Department Secretary of State