

FISCAL NOTE

(Return original and 10 copies)

Resolution No.: SB 2311 Amendment to: _____

Requested by Legislative Council Date of Request: January 20, 1999

- Please estimate the fiscal impact (in dollar amounts) of the above measure for state general or special funds, counties, cities, and school districts. Please provide breakdowns, if appropriate, showing salaries and wages, operating expenses, equipment, or other details to assist in the budget process. In a word processing format, add lines or space as needed or attach a supplemental sheet to adequately address the fiscal impact of the measure.

Narrative: Narrative is attached.

- State** fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

	1997-99 Biennium		1999-2001 Biennium		2001-03 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	None	None	None	None	None	None
Expenditures	None	None	875,000	None	699,000	None

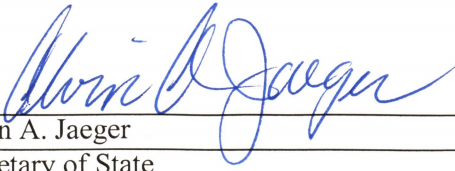
- What, if any, is the effect of this measure on the budget for your agency or department:

- For rest of 1997-99 biennium: **None**
(Indicate the portion of this amount included in the 1999-2001 executive budget:)
- For the 1999-2001 biennium: **\$875,000** for the three state agencies (not included in executive budget)
(Indicate the portion of this amount included in the 1999-2001 executive budget:)
- For the 2001-03 biennium: **\$699,000**

- County, city, and school district** fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

1997-99 Biennium			1999-2001 Biennium			2001-03 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
None	None	None	*	None	None	Unknown	None	None

* The estimated range is from \$309,000 to \$1,400,000

Signed: 
 Typed Name: Alvin A. Jaeger
 Department: Secretary of State
 Phone Number: 328-2900
 Date Prepared: January 28, 1999

Narrative for Fiscal Note pertaining to SB 2311, January 28, 1999

If voter registration becomes law in North Dakota, that law will need to comply with Federal regulations created under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The NVRA regulations are complex and, among its many provisions, cover list maintenance, reporting requirements, and locations where voter registration cards must be made available.

The county level of government plays a very active role in the registration process. In addition, voter registration cards must be made available at all motor vehicle licensing centers, all state, county, and local agencies providing any form of public assistance, and approximately twenty-eight institutions identified by the federal government as eligible to have students that may apply for and receive federal student aid.

Therefore, this fiscal note (while not inclusive of all entities that may be impacted) contains financial information provided by the Secretary of State's office, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Human Services, North Dakota Association of Counties, and County Auditors.

Secretary of State

Total Projected Implementation Costs for 99-01 Biennium – \$175,000

- 1 FTE for 99-01 Biennium (salary and benefits included) - \$50,000
- Initial Computer Programming for 99-01 Biennium - \$50,000
- Training and Travel - \$25,000
- Voter Education - \$50,000

Total Projected Costs for 01-03 Biennium - \$120,000

- 1 FTE for 01-03 Biennium (salary and benefits included) - \$50,000
- Continued Voter Education – \$50,000
- Training and Travel - \$20,000

Basis for above Estimated Costs

FTE * - One additional staff FTE would be required at the in the Secretary of State's office to compensate for added administrative responsibility for the following:

- Customers with voter registration questions
- Transmitting successful voter registrations to the proper state and county election official(s)
- Additional workload created by another administrative function
- Computer programming implementation
- Training
- Customer service calls and inquiries
- Ensuring NVRA compliance

Initial Computer Programming – Computer programming would be necessary for retrieving voter registration information from the counties and sharing it with other counties.

Training and Travel – Costs would be associated with training agencies and agency staff on voter registration procedures.

Voter Education – Voter education would be a significant element of the initial implementation that would have to include some form of organized and coordinated advertising/public awareness campaign.

Department of Transportation

Voter Registration at Drivers License Bureaus
(financial information by Keith Magnuson, DOT – 328-2727)

Total Projected Implementation Costs for 99-01 Biennium – \$550,000

- 10 FTE for 99-01 Biennium (salary and benefits included) - \$500,000
- Initial Computer Programming for 99-01 Biennium - \$25,000
- Address Corrections and Renewals for 99-01 Biennium - \$25,000

Total Projected Costs for 01-03 Biennium - \$525,000

- 10 FTE for 01-03 Biennium (salary and benefits included) - \$500,000
- Address Corrections and Renewals for 01-03 Biennium - \$25,000

Basis for above Estimated Costs

FTE * - One additional staff person would be required at the 8 regional drivers licensing bureaus across the state and two at the central office to handle the following:

- Customers with voter registration questions
- Sorting and processing successful and unsuccessful voter registrations
- Transmitting successful voter registrations to the proper state and county election official(s)
- Additional workload created by another administrative function
- Slower customer lines
- Computer programming implementation
- Training
- Customer service calls and inquiries
- Ensuring NVRA compliance

Initial Computer Programming – Computer programming would be necessary to incorporate voter registration information in the drivers licensing database(s).

Address Corrections and Renewals – Costs would be associated with processing and transmitting address correction and renewal information according to the requirements of NVRA.

* These costs do not address the potential costs that may be associated with training.

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Department of Human Services

Voter Registration at Disability Services Agencies

(financial information by Tom Henn – Department of Human Services – 328-4014)

Total Projected Implementation Costs for 99-01 Biennium – \$150,000

- General Funds - \$149,000
- Federal Funds - \$1,000

Total Projected Costs for 01-03 Biennium - \$54,000

- General Funds - \$53,500
- Federal Funds - \$500

Basis for above Estimated Costs

These estimates include the additional salaries of current employees, the need for temporary employees, and administrative costs that may be incurred by offering voter registration to the following Human Services Center applicants and clients *:

- Developmental Disability
- Mental Disability
- Substance Abuse Disability
- Vocational Disability
- State Hospital
- Children's Special Health Service clients between 18 and 21

*The impact on Developmental Center clients was not considered to be material.

County Auditors (Chief Election Officials of the County) *

Total Projected Implementation Costs for 99-01 Biennium – \$309,000 –\$1.4 million

Basis for above Estimated Costs

The fiscal impact to the state’s county auditors is extremely difficult to estimate or project. Based upon estimated costs provided by a sampling of more than 30 of the state’s county auditors, the following broad range of costs may be considered.

Keep in mind that these costs estimates that have been made without a specific or identifiable “first time” plan for implementing and maintaining voter registration since Senate Bill 2311 does not provide one. Depending upon such an “first time” implementation plan, which would likely have to comply with the requirements of NVRA, these estimates would likely change or vary.

Column 1 breaks provides a breakdown of the counties by number of voters I the 1996 General Election. Columns 2 and 3 provide low and high costs for individual county implementation. Columns 4 and 5 provide the totals costs based upon the low and high estimates.

1	2	3	4	5
Counties The following figures and rankings are based upon voter turnout in the 1996 General Election	Individual County Cost (low)	Individual County Cost (high)	Total (low)	Total (high)
24 Counties w/less than 2,000 voters	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$24,000	\$120,000
18 Counties w/2,000 to 5,000 voters	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$180,000
6 Counties w/5,000 to 10,000 voters	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$90,000
1 County w/10,000 to 20,000 voters	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
4 Counties w/ more than 20,000 voters	\$30,000	\$140,000	\$120,000	\$580,000
53 Counties			\$309,000	\$1,000,000

Another factor to consider in determining the implementation costs for the state’s county auditors is the estimated costs provided for by Cass County Auditor Mike Montplaisir for North Dakota’s most populous county. In his testimony he provides a range of \$130,000 to \$140,000 for implementing voter registration in Cass County.

Since Cass County is roughly ten percent of the state, it is also conceivable to project that the cost for implementing voter registration for all of the state’s county auditors may reach ten times the costs for Cass County, or \$1.3 to \$1.4 million dollars.

Total Projected Costs *

Agency	99-01 Biennium	01-03 Biennium
Secretary of State	\$175,000	\$120,000
Dept of Transportation	\$550,000	\$525,000
Human Services	\$150,000	\$54,000
County Auditors	\$309,000 to \$1,400,000	unknown

These projected costs do not include the potential costs associated with offering voter registration at public assistance agencies (food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, AFDC) or to college students enrolled in institutions of higher learning that enroll students receiving federal aid as required by federal law.