

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE SECURE AND FAIR ELECTIONS ACT INITIATIVE

FINANCIAL IMPACT – CANNOT BE DETERMINED

OVERVIEW

The Secure and Fair Elections Act Initiative (Initiative) proposes to amend various sections of Chapter 293 of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* relating to election law in Nevada, by requiring that government-issued identification be presented as a condition of voting in an election held within the state, and providing for the issuance of provisional ballots to persons who cannot present an acceptable form of government-issued identification. The Initiative also requires that a registered voter submitting an absentee or provisional ballot provide the last four digits of his Nevada driver's license number, state identification card number, or Social Security number.

The Initiative also proposes to amend Chapter 483 of *Nevada Revised Statutes*, relating to the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards by the Department of Motor Vehicles, to require that the fee be waived for the issuance of a new or replacement state identification card that is requested in order to comply with the voting requirements specified in the Initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE

Based on information the Fiscal Analysis Division received from the Office of the Secretary of State, the changes proposed within the Initiative related to changes to state election law would require systematic changes in the procedures and conduct of elections in the State. Specifically, the Initiative would:

- Require individuals who do not have a state-issued driver's license or identification card to vote using a paper provisional ballot, which would increase the printing costs incurred by local county clerks, local registrars of voters, and the Secretary of State's Office;
- Require the Secretary of State's Office to develop procedures to verify the last four digits of a voter's driver's license or identification card number for purposes of verifying identity. These four numbers have not been used for identity verification and may produce duplicate registrations, and staff will be required to implement security features to protect the integrity of elections,
- Require State and local elections officials to implement procedures and provide poll worker training for identification verification of voters; and
- Impose an identification requirement on military voters not required by existing state or federal law. Implementation by the State would increase return mail postage costs and require the Secretary of State's Office to promulgate regulations to administer the new identification requirement on military voters.

The resultant financial impact on the State or local governments to enforce these provisions of the Initiative cannot be determined at this time by the Office of the Secretary of State or the Fiscal Analysis Division with any reasonable degree of certainty.

Based on information the Fiscal Analysis Division received from the Department of Motor Vehicles, the provisions of the Initiative requiring the waiver of fees for new or replacement identification cards issued in order to comply with the voting requirements specified in the Initiative would result in a loss of fee revenue for the state. These provisions would also require the Department to implement procedures and provide staff training to its employees, and may require the Department to change its programming related to the issuance of state identification cards. However, because neither the Department of Motor Vehicles nor the Fiscal Analysis Division can predict the number of identification cards for which the fees would be waived under the provisions of the Initiative, the specific financial impact of these provisions contained within the Initiative cannot be determined with any reasonable degree of certainty.

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