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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/4/15
 SPONSOR Morales LAST UPDATED 3/13/15 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE Study Voter Convenience Center Effectiveness SJM 20/aSRC
 ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

Association of County Clerks (ACC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 20 requests that an election expert, in cooperation with the SOS and county clerks conduct a study on the effectiveness of voter convenience centers. The requirement that an expert “be commissioned to conduct a study” of the effectiveness of voter convenience centers rather than tasking the SOS with conducting the study may result in a fiscal impact.

Additionally, the amendment strikes the word “complaints” when referring to concerns with voting convenience centers and replaces it with “experiences”.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 20 requests the SOS, ACC, and an election expert associated with one of the state’s public universities to conduct a study on the effectiveness of voter convenience centers (VCC) in the election process.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications associated with passage of SJM 20.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

VCCs were intended to provide voters with multiple convenient voting locations rather than a single assigned precinct location. VCCs were also intended to create cost savings for the state. However, VCC may actually cost more than traditional precincts because of the IT systems they use. VCCs do provide for a cost savings to counties since having fewer overall polling locations reduces the number of poll workers needed.

CJ/aml/bb