

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 169 - 2

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Requires Secretary of State to study how to improve efficacy of voters' pamphlet.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Association of County Clerks, Secretary of State

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

SB 169 - 2 requires the Secretary of State to create and make publicly available a list of the 10 most commonly spoken languages in each county, other than English, based on the best available data and including the estimated number of individuals in each county who speak each listed language. Previously, only five languages were required.

Additionally, the state and county voters' pamphlets must be translated into each of these languages if the Secretary of State estimates that the language is spoken by 300 or more individuals in any one county. If no language other than English is spoken by 300 or more individuals in a county, the Secretary of State is to translate the state and county voters' pamphlets into the most commonly spoken language in that county, other than English. Previously, these provisions applied if there were only 100 individuals who spoke a language other than English. The voters' pamphlets are currently required to also be translated into the five most commonly spoken languages in the state.

The Secretary of State and counties must also include statements in the information section of the voters' pamphlet in English and 10 additional common languages for the county. This measure takes effect January 1, 2024 and applies to voters' pamphlets distributed on or after April 30, 2024.

The Secretary of State's office notes that although this measure takes effect January 1, 2024, they will likely need position authority prior to the effective date in order to produce the voters' pamphlet as directed by April 30, 2024. The Secretary of State's office also already has a currently filled, limited-duration Program Analyst 3 position that works on voters' pamphlet translation and is set to phase out at the end of the 2021-23 biennium. While this fiscal includes costs assuming a start date of January 1, 2024, with the Program Analyst 3 position priced at Step 3, the costs to implement the measure starting July 1, 2023, with the incumbent Program Analyst 3 would increase costs by approximately \$96,897 General Fund.

The Secretary of State's office anticipates costs totaling \$512,455 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium, and \$573,996 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium. In the 2023-25 biennium, these costs include:

- One permanent full-time Program Analyst 3 position at a total cost of \$172,050 General Fund to work with the Secretary of State's office, counties and the Translation Advisory Council; analyze language data; and work on translation services.
- Hiring temporary staff during peak times during voters' pamphlet production, including administrative and IT staff, at an estimated cost of \$41,043 General Fund.

- Approximately \$283,877 General Fund for translation costs and adding four members to the Translation Advisory Council.
- An additional \$15,485 for position-related services and supplies.

There is no fiscal impact for counties or Association of County Clerks, as the state pays for voters' pamphlet costs.