

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: General Government Subcommittee
From: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: February 26, 2024
Subject: SB 1533 – Relating to Elections
Work Session Recommendations

SB 1533 requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to create a list of the 10 most commonly spoken languages in each county (up from 5), other than English, including the estimated number of individuals in each county who speak each listed language. SOS and counties must also include statements in the information section of the voters' pamphlet in English and 10 additional common languages for the county, instead of five. 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.

The estimated fiscal impact of this measure is \$61,522 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium, and \$271,828 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium. 2025-27 costs will be phased-in as part of the current service level calculations during 2025-27 budget development. It is assumed that current biennium costs can be absorbed, however if costs are higher than expected or cannot be absorbed in the \$13.3 million Elections Division 2023-25 budget, the agency may request funding during the 2025 Legislative Session.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1533 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1533 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation.
(VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____