

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

---

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 1 - 0

**Yeas:** Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

**Nays:** Starr

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Lori Brocker, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 5/8, 6/11

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Increases maximum civil penalty for violation of election law or rule from \$250 to \$1000. Eliminates requirement that certain ballots be printed in different colors. Increases time allowed for mailing of ballots from 18 to 20 days before date of election.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Vote-by-mail system
- Impact of United States Postal Service changes
- Monies paid for violation of election law
- Integrity of elections
- Civil penalty matrix
- Costs of printing colored ballots
- Impact of change in colored ballot requirement on elections
- Amendments

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Increases time allowed for mailing of ballots from 18 to 20 days before date of election.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, in primary elections, ballots must be different colors. This requirement often results in additional printing costs for each county. Senate Bill 150A would eliminate the requirement that ballots be printed in different colors. It would also increase the *maximum* civil penalty for a violation of any election law or rule from \$250 to \$1,000. Certain election violations already allow for a civil penalty maximum of \$1,000 or more. Senate Bill 150A provides that a civil penalty *may* be imposed up to a maximum of \$1,000 for election law violations that are currently subject to the \$250 maximum.

Under current law, ballots are mailed 18 days before an election. Due to recent changes at the United States Postal Service, particularly the reduction in processing centers, mail may take longer to reach its final destination. Senate Bill 150A changes the time allowed for mailing of ballots from 18 to 20 days before the date of an election to allow for longer times between the mailing of ballots and their receipt by voters.