

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 4 - 0
Yeas: Barnhart, Dembrow, Holvey, Hoyle, Garrett
Nays: Berger, Hicks, Jenson, Kennemer
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 6/24, 6/26

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:

- Type of violations that would be subject to civil penalty
- Civil penalty matrix
- Process for establishing unofficial ballot drop site
- Changes in United States Postal Service delivery process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 150-A makes a number of adjustments to elections law. First, in primary elections, current law requires ballots to be different colors. This requirement often results in additional printing costs for each county. Senate Bill 150-A eliminates the requirement that ballots be printed in different colors.

Second, Senate Bill 150-A increases the *maximum* civil penalty for a violation of any election law or rule from \$250 to \$1,000. (Certain election violations already allow a maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 or more; Senate Bill 150-A provides that a civil penalty *may* be imposed up to a maximum of \$1,000 only for those violations that are currently limited to a maximum of \$250.)

Finally, under current law, ballots are mailed 18 days before an election. As a result of 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 150-A 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.