

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Chair

Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. David Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Capital Construction Subcommittee

From: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 18, 2019

Subject: SB 116 – Relating to elections; declaring an emergency

SB 116 outlines requirements in the event that HB 3427 is referred to voters by referendum petition, then a special election is to be held on January 21, 2020 with only this measure on the ballot. HB 3427 relates to education funding through establishment of a corporate activity tax. All other measures are to be voted on during the general election in November 2020.

For special elections, the Office of the Secretary of State would need to reimburse counties for the costs of the election and would also incur administrative costs related to the printing and mailing of the voters' pamphlet. Such costs are indeterminate at this time. The Secretary of State would need to return during the 2020 session or to a future meeting of the Emergency Board to request funds to cover the actual costs incurred in the event such an election occurs. This follows the same process that occurred for the 2018 special election, where Secretary of State and counties were reimbursed for their costs incurred.

Based on previous special election costs, Secretary of State estimates a January 2020 special election to cost about \$3.5 million General Fund to administer. This amount includes hiring of temporary staff, overtime and holiday pay, and reimbursement to counties.

There is a minimal fiscal impact to the Judicial Department and the Legislative Assembly.

Recommended Changes

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) recommends adoption of the -A4 amendment, which removes word limits to the ballot title. It should be noted that not having word limits will likely increase costs to the Secretary of State depending on how many additional pages are required.

MOTION: I move adoption of the -A4 amendment to SB 116. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

MOTION: I move SB 116 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____