

BDR 24-851 AB 272

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 21, 2017

Agency Submitting: Nye County

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2018-19	Effect on Future Biennia
48,000 (Expense)		\$48,000		
Total	0	\$48,000	0	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

Has Impact

Name Sandra L. Merlino

Title Nye County Clerk

DESCRIPTION OF FISCAL EFFECT

BDR/Bill/Amendment Number: 24-851/ AB272

Name of Agency: Nye County

Division/Department: Nye County Clerk

Date: March 14, 2017

As the County Clerk, I am concerned that I cannot physically or logistically comply with some of the requirements proposed in this bill. Nye County is 18,000 square miles and my office tries to accommodate all the voters in the best manner possible with budget and staffing constraints we currently have in place. The majority of our time is spent as clerk of the court with only a couple of employees handling voter registration and elections. Even with more election staff it would be difficult to cover the miles necessary if more polling places are established.

Nye County has 6 Election Day polling places: Round Mountain, Tonopah, Beatty, Amargosa and 2 in Pahrump to cover the most populated areas of the County. Round Mountain and Pahrump are over 200 miles apart. We have 2 early voting sites, Pahrump and Tonopah, each at separate ends of the county to accommodate voters. We also have 8 mail-in precincts with 100 or less voters.

Sec 2.1. Establishing polling places in the county where any person can vote.

- In order to establish one or more polling places where any person can vote it will require electronic poll books. We do not have electronic poll books in place so the cost for Nye County would be approximately \$20,000

Sec 3.1. Publication required by Sec. 2.

- The publication cost would be minimal. I do have concerns with the requirement.

Sec. 6. The county clerk must establish at least one polling place within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation

- There are 8 mail-in precincts in Nye County and 2 are Indian Reservations, Duckwater and Lone. Duckwater has 60 voters and Lone has 20. The other mail-in precincts range from 5 voters in Mercury to over 100 in Gabbs with the other 4 somewhere between 15 and 60 voters.
- Duckwater is approximately 130 miles northeast from Tonopah and Lone is approximately 130 miles northwest from Tonopah. This would create polling places over 300 miles apart in Nye County. It is physically and logistically difficult for my office to do.
- The cost for establishing these two mail-in precincts as precincts with polling locations would be approximately \$16,000, \$14,000 for additional election equipment and \$2,000 for additional election workers, training, and transportation costs.
- If polling places are established in Lone with 20 voters and Duckwater with 60 voters there would also be pressure to create polling places in Carrant, Gabbs, Crystal and Manhattan where there are more registered voters.

- I would like to see a minimum of registered voters of at least 400 or 500 before making this a requirement.

Sec. 8. Extending Election Day Hours to 9:00 p.m.

- Election workers already work a 14 or 15 hour day. It is already difficult to recruit workers. I would have to run two shifts of workers if the hours were extended to 9:00 pm. The approximate cost for a second shift of workers including training for those additional workers, Clerk staff overtime and Buildings & Grounds overtime would be close to \$10,000.

Sec. 9. Providing Voting Materials in Mandarin and Cantonese

- The fiscal impact cannot be determined for this mandate as Nye County does not have a Mandarin or Cantonese population that I am aware of. U.S. Code already covers this.

Sec. 16. Extending Early Voting through the Sunday before Election Day

- The cost for additional staff overtime as well as additional workers would be approximately \$2,000.
- The extension of early voting through the Sunday prior to the election would not give my office time for Election Day preparation. First thing Monday morning we begin setting up polling places throughout the county, over a 250 or 300 mile stretch depending on Sec. 6.

Sec. 17. Provide a Temporary Branch Early Voting Site on an Indian Reservation

- Nye County's Indian Reservations are designated as mail-in precincts. I have the same logistical concerns with setting up early voting sites as I do with setting up Election Day polling places for so few voters. If required to establish Election Day polling places for Duckwater and Lone with 60 and 20 voters, I cannot see the justification for setting up early voting sites.