



Initiative 135

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Summary

Date: January 15, 2024 **Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

LCS TITLE: CANDIDATE ACCESS TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 135

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State expenditures. The measure is estimated to increase state expenditures in the Department of State (DOS) by approximately \$1.7 million annually, beginning in FY 2025-26 to verify signatures on a large volume of petitions to determine which candidates qualify for the ballot, including the cost of legal challenges and appeals. Costs may vary year to year based on the number and type of elections held at different points in the election cycle (primary elections, general elections, races held on two-year and four-year cycles, etc.) and how they align with the state fiscal year. Additional costs and workload will also be incurred to update election rules and information resources regarding ballot access for candidates, campaigns, and political parties. Costs are assumed to be paid from the General Fund, but could also be paid in full or in part from the Department of State Cash Fund.

State revenue. If costs under the measure are paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, state revenue from business filing fees paid to the DOS must be increased. The actual amount of new revenue and fee charges will be set administratively by DOS in order to cover any costs to implement the initiative paid from the DOS Cash Fund.

Technical note. This fiscal summary does not discuss impacts related to the creation of an "all-candidate primary election", which is referenced by this measure. Such a primary does not exist under current law and is not specifically created or outlined by this measure. It is assumed that a separate measure will create the "all-candidate primary election" and the impacts of such a change to primary elections will be addressed in the fiscal summary for that measure.

Economic impacts. The measure has no direct impact on the state economy.