



The Negative Impacts of Voter ID (LB 111) on the Budget

- 1. LB 111 as amended by the committee could result in lost revenue of almost \$5.2 million dollars.** By striking the term “indigent”, the committee amendment provides free state IDs to any individual who requests one. It is estimated about 200,000 individuals do not currently have a Nebraska driver’s license. Providing a free state ID to each of these individuals would result in the State of Nebraska losing \$5.2 million in revenue.¹
- 2. LB 111 as amended by committee may cost the state over \$1 million annually.** By allowing any individual to receive a free state ID, LB 111 would make it possible for those who currently have a state ID the opportunity to renew it for free, costing the state that revenue and ability to off-set the costs of producing it.²
- 3. Secretary of State John Gale needs over \$300,000 to educate voters.** This cost is not reflective in the fiscal note nor is it required by the legislation as introduced.
- 4. Cost to the counties will increase under LB 111.** Some county clerks have predicted an increase in use of provisional ballot, resulting in an increase in the amount of money counties will need to pay for elections.³
- 5. While the Secretary of State claims 98% of all registered voters have a driver’s license or state ID, there is no certainty these forms of ID will be accepted under LB 111.** This legislation requires the photo ID be compared to the poll book and have an address that matches the voter registration. The DMV estimates 50,000 – 60,000 Nebraskans have licenses that do not match their current address and only about 1 out of 3 make the effort to update them when mailed notices by the DMV.
- 6. At \$33 per provisional ballot, Nebraska counties could end up paying millions to process provisional ballots cast under LB 111.** In its 2013 Annual Report the DMV reported 65,574 licenses did not match records received from USPS National Change of Address. These individuals would be required to vote provisionally under LB 111 and, at a cost of \$33 per ballot to process, cost counties over \$2 million in additional election expenses. This does not include the cost of those who fail to bring their valid ID but vote provisionally or students with out of state valid licenses that vote provisionally.

¹ In 2012 the population of Nebraskans over the age of 18 was estimated to be 75% of its current population of 1.85 million, roughly 1.39 million Nebraskans of voting age. (Nebraska Blue Book, APPENDIX U) In its 2013 Annual Report (APPENDIX W) the DMV reported 1.17 million Nebraskans over the age of 18 held a Class O driver's license, a difference of 214,435 Nebraskans without a driver's license. State IDs cost \$26 for a 5 year state ID, providing a free state ID to each individual without a license would result in lost revenue of \$5,575,310.

² State IDs issued from 2009 – 2013 and what revenue would have been lost had LB 111 as amended been in effect: 2009 (42,998, \$1,117,948), 2010 (41,696, \$1,084,096), 2011(47,844, \$1,243,944), 2012 (52,520, \$1,365,520), 2013 (48,233, \$1,254,058)(APPENDIX W)

³ The process associated with administering a provisional ballot includes additional time for the poll worker to provide the voter with the provisional ballot (an estimate 15 minutes), additional time opening the provisional ballot envelope, performing diligent research to determine if the individual is registered at the address they voted at and if the registration is valid, staff determination of whether to accept or reject the ballot, presentation to the canvassing board and their deliberation on whether to accept or reject the ballot. A canvassing board of 6 gets aid minimum wage for the duties performed, for each hour they meet the county spends \$48, almost \$400 for an 8 hour day. Election officials by federal law must have provisional ballots counted within 7 days, meaning the county will have to meet longer than 8 hours a day to count all provisional ballots if more are utilized. It is estimated in Lancaster County it takes 3-4 days for a municipal or primary election, 5-6 days for a general election and the full 7 days for a general election in a presidential year.

Under LB 111 it is likely all provisional ballots cast due to a lack of photo ID will be counted. The process for how they are counted was not altered and no requirement an individual come back within so many days with an ID was added. (*LB 111, Section 10 on page 14 starting at line 10*). Therefore the county employee verifying their status will look them up and see that they have a valid voter registration at that address and recommend counting the ballot and the canvassing board will likely come to the same conclusion. In short, a provisional ballot will be counted after going through a more expensive process with no ID verification ever occurring.