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Agenda

April 26, 2016

9:30 a.m. - Room 4203

BILL

A.B. 120

AUTHOR

Committee on Budget

SUBJECT

Budget Act of 2015

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Subject: State Employees: Memorandum of Understanding

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Mark Leno, Chair

2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No:	AB 120	Hearing Date:	April 26, 2016
Author:	Committee on Budget		
Version:	April 21, 2016 As amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Samantha Lui		

Subject: Budget Act of 2015

Summary: Contains amendments to the 2015 Budget Act to include new appropriations to the Secretary of State, related to the state's June 7, 2016, primary election.

Proposed Law: This bill includes the following.

- 1) Provides \$16.3 million General Fund to support counties that request assistance for costs incurred between April 26, 2016, and July 15, 2016, in conducting the June 7, 2016, primary election and in verifying statewide initiative signatures.
- 2) Approves up to \$115,000 General Fund to the Secretary of State for state operations costs.
- 3) Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to establish a reimbursement formula, based on the total number of signatures submitted to the requesting county and the number of eligible voters in that county. This formula must be provided to each county by May 1, 2016.
- 4) Requires a county elections official to meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for reimbursement:
 - a) Comply with existing law, including: establishing precinct boundaries, designating polling places, providing ballots and other supplies to each precinct, and posting notices in the polling place, among others.
 - b) Demonstrate that for all statewide initiative petitions filed in that county on or before May 20, 2016, that the county met requirements and provided the total number of signatures to the SOS no later than May 27, 2016; completed the determination of whether a petition qualified for the ballot; and provided to the SOS, no later than midnight on June 30, 2016, the results of the random sampling of each petition.
 - c) Prepare, sign, and certify a report as true and accurate, costs associated with the 2016 primary election and with verifying statewide initiative signatures.
 - d) Submit to the Controller, on or before August 1, 2016, the certified report of costs, detailed invoices (e.g., timesheets, salary information), and other

information to verify county costs and county's compliance with these requirements.

- 5) Requires the State Controller to reimburse a county after receiving the county elections official's certified report of costs.
- 6) Makes a technical amendment removing this bill from the list of budget trailer bills.

Fiscal Effect: This bill provides \$16.3 million General Fund in local assistance to assist counties with the upcoming June 7, 2016, primary election and the verification of signatures. In addition, the bill appropriates up to \$115,000 General Fund to the Secretary of State for state operations costs.

Support: None on file.

Opposed: None on file.

Comments: Existing law requires counties to fund most elections expenses and establishes a county elections official's role in conducting elections, such as supervising voter registration, processing the verification of signatures on statewide initiative petitions to qualify for a ballot, establishing precinct boundaries, and equipping polling places on election day. The state funds some elections costs, primarily the printing of the state voter information guide (VIG), which provides information about ballot measures and candidate statements.

The SOS, counties, and county elections officials raise concerns with current elections funding and capacity related to the June 7, 2016, primary election. As county elections officials prepare for the June primary, they also verify signatures on initiative petitions and assess whether a measure qualifies for the November 2016 ballot. As of April 14, 2016, eight measures have qualified for the November ballot, and another 15 remain in circulation and may qualify for the November ballot. Given the anticipated higher voter turnout during a presidential primary election and workload associated with verifying signatures on petitions in a timely manner, the bill provides additional funds to counties, and establishes a mechanism to reimburse counties that meet specified requirements, to assist them in conducting the June 7 primary election and in signature verification.

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