

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 3196
Version:	Introduced
Request Number:	8132
Author:	Representative Munson
Date:	2/15/2016
Impact:	Increased Costs to the State Election Board

Research Analysis

HB 3196 requires that all elections in the state be conducted by mail beginning with the 2020 election cycle and establishes procedures and requirements for the conduct of elections.

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

Fiscal Analysis

Provision is made for elections to be conducted by mail- however, without repealing existing election and voting statutes, this provision would represent a new system to operate in conjunction with existing systems, thereby potentially incurring additional costs. The State Election Board in assessing such costs would consider the following:

- The cost of obtaining new voting equipment for handling large volumes of mail ballots. Equipment for the current precinct-based voting system would be inadequate for processing large volumes of ballots at central locations;
- The cost of purchasing new voting equipment and/or software to accommodate voters with disabilities. Currently, this functionality is included in Oklahoma's precinct-based ballot scanner;
- The cost of new election programming software and/or the reprogramming of existing software to function with a vote-by-mail system;
- The cost of additional personnel at county election board to send, process, verify, and count potentially massive volumes of mail ballots;
- The cost of personnel and equipment at ballot deposit sites;
- The cost of election supplies and postage necessary to conduct votes by mail;
- The cost of training state, county, and other election officials to use the new system;
- The cost of writing, designing, printing, and shipping new instruction manuals for election officials and employees regarding the new system; and
- The cost of education the public about the new system.

At present, no specific cost data is provided and further research is required.

Prepared By: Nicole McPhetridge

Other Considerations

None.

