

**Fiscal Estimate — 2001 Session**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/> Updated	LRB Number <b>01-15201</b>	Amendment Number if Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental	Bill Number Assembly Bill 2	Administrative Rule Number

Subject  
Scheduling of referenda by local governments.

Fiscal Effect

State:  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriation | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriation | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriation        |   |

Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.  
 Yes  No

Decrease Costs

Local:  No Local Government Costs

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory            | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenues<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenues<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:

- Towns  Villages  Cities  
 Counties  Others \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Districts  WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR  FED  PRO  PRS  SEG  SEG-S

Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations


Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill limits the days on which local governing bodies may schedule referendum questions. There are currently few restrictions. The bill further prohibits a referendum submitted by the same local government relating to substantially similar subject matter from being held more than once in any 12-month period. Finally, the bill creates a state referendum appeal board consisting of the governor, the senate majority leader, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the assembly, and the assembly minority leader or their designees. This board is empowered to permit a local government to hold a referendum on a date that is not otherwise permitted if the board finds that an emergency exists which requires the referendum to be held on a date that is not otherwise permitted.

This proposal could result in cost savings for local governments conducting referendum elections because they generally would be conducted in conjunction with currently set elections, with one exception in November of odd-numbered years. In 2000, 100 school districts posed referenda questions in regularly scheduled elections, and 28 school districts posed referenda questions during special elections. Under current law, when a special referendum election is held, the governmental unit responsible for calling the election pays all the costs of the election. This amount ranges from \$500 to several thousand dollars, depending on the size of the governing unit. Therefore, if this bill were in effect in 2000, school districts that called for special elections may have saved upwards of \$14,000 (\$500 X 28) statewide.

School districts and other governmental units may need to schedule referenda at other times in order to expedite construction projects. Delays that result from the provisions in this bill could result in additional costs to individual school districts. However, such costs resulting from delays are indeterminable.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

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