Department of Planning and Budget
2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB482

   House of Origin X Introduced ___ Substitute ___ Engrossed

   Second House ___ In Committee ___ Substitute ___ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Hurt

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** **Deadline for making absentee ballots available; military voters.**

5. **Summary:** Increases the deadline for each electoral board to make absentee ballots available from 45 to 50 days prior to any November general election or special election held at the same time, and from 30 to 35 days prior to any other general, special, or primary election. Each electoral board must report to the State Board of Elections whether it has complied with these deadlines no later than five days after absentee ballots are made available. The bill also provides that making absentee ballots available includes mailing the ballot or electronic transmission of the ballot to an absentee voter who is eligible for an absentee ballot due to active duty military service, membership in the merchant marines, or temporary residence outside of the country, or to the spouse or dependent residing with such a voter, and that absentee ballots shall be provided to such voters within three business days upon receiving the voter's application. The bill further provides that absentee ballots cast by such voters will still be counted even if received after the close of the polls on election day if the ballot was received before the State Board meets to ascertain the results of the election.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** There is no fiscal impact to State Board of Elections (SBE)

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

8. **Fiscal Implications:** SBE has indicated that there is no fiscal impact to the agency. The printing of absentee ballots are a local government responsibility and associated costs will be incurred at that level. Although SBE does provide ballot proofing services in an effort to ensure legality, accuracy and uniformity, the shortened time of ballot proofing will not increase costs for SBE.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Board of Elections, local government

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** None

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