

Date: January 7, 2015

To: Julie Strother, Government Relations Director
Office of the Secretary of State

From: Katharine Barondeau, Executive Budget Officer
Minnesota Management & Budget

Subject: M.S. 14.131 Review of Proposed Permanent Rules Relating to the Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program, Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8290.

BACKGROUND

The Office of the Secretary of State proposes revising Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8290 relating to the permanent rules governing Safe at Home operating procedures. The proposed changes clarify processes for applying to the program, when a participant may be cancelled from the program, renewal processes, withdrawal processes, and other related processes.

Pursuant to M.S. 14.131, the Office has asked the Commissioner of Management and Budget to help evaluate the fiscal impact and fiscal benefit of the proposed revisions on local units of government.

EVALUATION

On behalf of the Commissioner of Management & Budget, I have reviewed the proposed rules and related Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) for any potential costs and benefits to local units of government. My evaluation is summarized below:

- 1) The proposed rules will primarily affect participants of the Safe at Home program, the Secretary of State's Office as the administrator of the program, and application assistants at community-based programs who assist individuals with applying for the program. The Secretary of State has provided notice of the proposed rules as required by law and additional notice to interested parties, including local election officials, legislators, victim advocates, and state and local agencies that interact with program participants.
- 2) The affected individuals and organizations will benefit from the rule changes because the changes provide clarity about procedures for program administration. The changes will improve efficiency by eliminating errors in applications, preventing unintended cancellations from the program, and other administrative efficiencies.
- 3) Local units of government are not likely to experience any fiscal impact from the rules because the changes clarify existing statutes and rules and do not involve additional requirements or responsibilities.

Based upon the information provided to me by the Office of the Secretary of State, I believe that the proposed rule revisions will have minimal or no fiscal impact on local units of government and the Secretary of State has adequately considered local government costs.

cc: Kerstin Larson, Budget Division Team Leader