



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 646

January Session, 2009

Senate Bill No. 917

Senate, April 15, 2009

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-4b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Secretary of the State, within available appropriations, shall
4 establish an elections and compliance training unit to coordinate all
5 training for registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters, permanent
6 assistant registrars of voters [as described in section 9-192] and poll
7 workers. Such unit shall assure compliance with all applicable federal
8 and state statutes and regulations by any person holding the office or
9 designation of registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters,
10 permanent assistant registrar of voters or poll worker, as applicable.
11 Such unit [shall] may employ [at least one person] such persons as are
12 necessary to carry out the duties described in this section, including,
13 but not limited to, persons having field experience in the conduct of

14 elections.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-4b

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the elections training unit of the Office of the Secretary of the State to assure that the registrars, deputy registrars, permanent assistant registrars, and poll workers comply with federal and state law and regulations. There are no funds for this purpose contained in sHB 6365, the budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee. Due to the bill’s provision that the Secretary of the State carry out these functions within available appropriations, they will either: 1) shift resources from other existing agency priorities; 2) incur a deficiency; 3) not be able to fully meet the requirements of the bill; or 4) delay implementation until resources are made available.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 917*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.*****SUMMARY:**

PA 05-235 required the secretary of the state to establish an elections training unit within her office that coordinates training for registrars of voters, deputy registrars, permanent assistant registrars, and poll workers. The unit was required to hire at least one person experienced in the conduct of elections. In compliance with the law, the secretary of the state established a one-person unit.

Within available appropriations, this bill (1) requires the unit to assure that the registrars, deputy registrars, permanent assistant registrars, and poll workers comply with federal and state law and regulations and (2) permits the unit to employ as many people as are necessary to carry out its duties, including people experienced in the conduct of elections. It eliminates the requirement for the unit to hire at least one person experienced in the conduct of elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Duties of the Secretary of the State***

As the commissioner of elections for the state, the secretary is required to, among other things, prepare regulations and instructions for the conduct of elections and advise local election officials on the proper methods of conducting elections and referenda (CGS § 9-4).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/27/2009)