



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 518**

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 348

*Senate, April 14, 2014*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING POST-ELECTION AUDITS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 9-320f of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2014*):

4 (c) If (1) a selected voting district has an office that is subject to  
5 recanvass or an election or primary contest pursuant to the general  
6 statutes, or (2) three voting districts wholly or partially located in a  
7 municipality have been selected for audit under subsection (b) of this  
8 section for a single election or primary and another voting district  
9 located wholly or partially in such municipality is selected, the  
10 Secretary shall select an alternative district, pursuant to the process  
11 described in subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	9-320f(c)

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Less than 10,000 each	Less than 10,000 each

**Explanation**

The bill limits the number of districts that can be audited in a municipality during a primary or election. To the extent that a municipality would have been selected for more than the proposed maximum number of audits, such municipality would realize savings anticipated to be less than \$10,000 for each election or primary.

**The Out Years**

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 348*****AN ACT CONCERNING POST-ELECTION AUDITS.*****SUMMARY:**

The law requires registrars of voters to audit the state's voting districts, selected through random drawing, after a regular federal, state, or municipal election or primary, except for districts where an office is subject to a recanvass (recount) or an election or primary contest. This bill prohibits more than three districts in a municipality (whether wholly or partially in the municipality) from being audited for a post-primary or post-election audit. If a fourth district in a municipality is selected in the random drawing, the secretary of the state must randomly select an alternative district.

By law, the registrars must audit at least 10% of the voting districts in the state, municipality, or district, whichever applies. The offices subject to the audit in the selected districts are:

1. in a presidential or gubernatorial election, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office selected in a random drawing by the secretary of the state, but in no case fewer than three offices;
2. in a municipal election, three offices or 20% of the offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, selected at random by the town clerk; and
3. in a primary election, all offices required to be audited by federal law, plus one additional office, if any, but at least 20% of the offices on the ballot, selected at random by the town clerk.

The audit must occur between the 15<sup>th</sup> day after an election or

primary and two days before the secretary of the state canvasses the votes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/24/2014)