

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7160

AN ACT INCREASING VOTER ACCESS.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 9885)

House Calendar No.: 452

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Up to 152,500	Up to 30,000
Various State Agencies	GF - Cost	2,500	None
State Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill allows registrars of voters to apply to the Secretary of the State (SOS) for permission to designate additional Election Day Registration (EDR) locations. To the extent that municipalities need to designate an additional EDR location, there could be potential associated costs, including, but not limited to: providing a polling location, hiring and training additional EDR staff, purchasing additional equipment, and hiring police.

The bill also requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to conduct an investigation if the registrars of voters cannot

verify the residency of an admitted applicant. Dependent on the number of investigations, SEEC may need to hire additional staff.

Sections 2 through 5, which allow the Governor to deliver writs of election electronically for certain vacancies, have no fiscal impact.

Sections 6 through 11 allows the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), voter registration agencies, and requires public higher education institutions to use an SOS approved electronic system when registering qualified voter registration applicants as electors. Such system must comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requirements.

Pursuant to a May 16, 2016, memorandum of understanding between the SOS and DMV there is already an established process and timeline for developing an automatic voter registration system. Thus, these provisions have no fiscal impact to DMV.

In order to develop an electronic system, it is anticipated the SOS will have to hire a consultant at a cost of up to \$150,000 in FY 20. The costs would be associated with the consultant modifying the existing online voter registration system to include the ability for applications to sign using a signature pad and to set up signature kiosks at such agencies. A cost of up to \$30,000 is anticipated in FY 21 in order to maintain the software of such application. In addition, each voter registration agency will need a kiosk set up which can accept electronic signatures from applicants at a cost of \$2,500 in FY 20 to each such agency.

The bill also requires SOS to develop and implement a system through which individuals may submit electronic signatures in order to sign elections-related forms and applications, other than those for campaign finance purposes.

It is anticipated SOS will need to purchase software for developing forms that can be electronically signed at a cost of up to \$2,500 in FY 20. It is unclear how the electronic signature will be implemented once

developed and potential costs may be incurred in FY 21 for each form signed.

Sections 12 and 13 have no fiscal impact. Specifically, Section 13 eliminates the requirement that all fines related to a felony conviction must be paid as a condition for restoring the elector privileges of certain convicted felons upon release from confinement. As convicted felons are not released from confinement if they owe a fine, but they remain incarcerated and their unpaid fine balance is reduced at a daily rate, this section has no fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, thus becoming the bill with the above referenced fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the cost of maintaining the electronic voter registration system, the number of forms electronically signed, and the establishment of EDR locations, EDR individuals, and staffing levels.