

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHJ-161

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-
EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	None	5,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The resolution proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to: 1) provide a minimum of three days of early voting, 2) allow all voters to vote by absentee ballot, 3) eliminate the requirement that electors gather on the day of an election to vote for state officers and state legislators, and 4) lift constitutional deadlines by which the lists of results for state officers and state legislators must be delivered to town clerks and the Secretary of the State and removes the requirement that the second list be submitted under seal.

The Secretary of the State is anticipated to incur a cost of \$5,000 in FY 21 (for the November 2020 election) for providing posters with the proposed constitutional amendment question and explanation to each polling place in every municipality.

This cost will cover the printing and mailing of the posters. Since all materials required for placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot are supplied by the State, and the vote will occur on the same

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day as a regularly scheduled statewide election, no costs will be incurred by municipalities.

The Out Years

The cost identified above is one-time. However, the FY 21 cost may be shifted into FY 23 pursuant to the requirements of the constitutional amendment process.