

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-1049

AN ACT CONCERNING MODERN ELECTIONS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Up to 2,500	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes affecting election administration.

Sections 1 and 2 require the Secretary of the State (SOS) to develop and implement a system through which individuals may submit electronic signatures in order to sign certain elections-related forms and applications. 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.

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

The bill further requires SOS to develop an online system through which individuals may register to distribute absentee ballot applications for a primary, election, or referendum. No fiscal impact is anticipated as SOS has the expertise to fulfill the requirements of this provision.

Sections 3 through 7 specify that specific types of elections-related litigation must be brought before the Harford Superior Court. This change does not result in a fiscal impact as the court will be able to implement this change with current court staffing.

Sections 8 through 11 give candidates the ability to correct endorsement certificates and certificates of candidacies for nomination, under certain circumstances, and authorize SOS to amend such certificates. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

Section 12 requires that registrars of voters certify, in writing, Election Day Registration (EDR) locations to the SOS at least 31 days before the election. After reviewing such certification, the SOS may require the registrars of voters to appoint additional election officials, or alter the design or plan.

To the extent municipalities need to designate an additional EDR location, there would be potential costs associated with, but not limited to, providing a polling location, hiring and training additional EDR staff, purchasing additional equipment, and hiring police.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that, before admitting EDR applicants as electors, registrars of voters check the centralized voter registration system and administer a cross-check procedure. Rather, the bill requires registrars to admit applicants whom they determine satisfy the requirements for admission as electors. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision as it is making procedural changes.

Section 13 requires the SOS, upon the adoption of a redistricting plan following the decennial U.S. Census, to request any statistical and

voting district information deemed necessary to ensure the plan's effective implementation. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of forms electronically signed and the establishment of additional EDR locations.