



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 455

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 1014

Senate, April 14, 2021

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL ELECTION MONITOR FOR THE 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND THE 2022 STATE ELECTION.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There shall be, in any
2 municipality with a population of at least one hundred forty thousand,
3 an election monitor for the municipal election in 2021 and the state
4 election in 2022 to detect and prevent irregularity and impropriety in
5 the management of election administration procedures and the conduct
6 of said elections in such municipality. The office of the Secretary of the
7 State shall contract with an individual to serve in such capacity as
8 election monitor until December 31, 2022, unless such contract is
9 terminated for any reason by the Secretary of the State prior to said date.
10 Such election monitor shall: (1) Not be considered a state employee; (2)
11 be compensated in accordance with such contract; and (3) be
12 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his
13 or her duties. Costs related to the service of such election monitor shall
14 be paid from moneys appropriated to the Secretary for such purpose.

15 Such municipality shall provide for such election monitor any office
 16 space, supplies, equipment and services necessary to properly carry out
 17 the duties and responsibilities of the position. As used in this section,
 18 "population" means the estimated number of people according to the
 19 most recent version of the State Register and Manual prepared pursuant
 20 to section 3-90 of the general statutes.

21 (b) An election monitor appointed under subsection (a) of this section
 22 shall: (1) Conduct inspections, inquiries and investigations relating to
 23 any duty or responsibility under title 9 of the general statutes to be
 24 carried out by any official of the municipality or appointee of such
 25 official; (2) have access to all records, data and material maintained by
 26 or available to any such official or appointee; and (3) immediately report
 27 to the Secretary of the State any irregularity or impropriety in the
 28 performance of any duty or responsibility described in subdivision (1)
 29 of this subsection. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
 30 the State Elections Enforcement Commission from taking any action
 31 authorized under section 9-7b of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	150,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires any municipality with a population of at least 140,000 to have an election monitor for the 2021 municipal election and the 2022 state election. This bill requires that the Secretary of the State (SOS) to contract with such monitor until December 31, 2022, unless such contract is terminated prior to said date. The bill also requires such municipality to provide the monitor with office space, supplies, equipment, and services necessary to carry out duties and responsibilities.

Based on the 2018 Annual Town and County Population for Connecticut¹ produced by the Department of Public Health, only Bridgeport meets such population threshold.

It is estimated that the cost for an election monitor for two elections would be \$150,000 based on the Secretary of State's experience in hiring an election monitor for Bridgeport for the 2020 election.

¹https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/Population/Town-Pop/pop_towns2018pdf.pdf

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above is only for the 2021 and 2022 elections.



OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1014

AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL ELECTION MONITOR FOR THE 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND THE 2022 STATE ELECTION.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/29/2021)