



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 591

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1017

Senate, April 22, 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 substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REGARDING REDISTRICTING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section, "plan
2 of districting" means the plan adopted or determined pursuant to
3 Article XXVI or Article XXX, as applicable, of the Amendments to the
4 Constitution of Connecticut. Upon the completion by the registrars of
5 voters in each municipality of the implementation of the plan of
6 districting, the Secretary of the State shall review such implementation
7 to ensure that such plan has been properly implemented and
8 interpreted. In the case of any error in the implementation of such plan
9 in a municipality, the Secretary shall notify the registrars of voters of
10 such municipality of such error and require that such registrars of voters
11 undertake measures to correct such error. Such registrars of voters shall
12 immediately correct such error and certify in writing to the Secretary
13 when such error has been corrected.

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

The title was changed.

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	30,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Secretary of the State to review how municipalities implement the state's Plan of Redistricting following the decennial U.S. Census. As the Secretary of the State does not have staff expertise in redistricting the office will need to hire a consultant, at an estimated one-time cost of \$30,000, to review each town's redistricting plan.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1017*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REGARDING REDISTRICTING.*****SUMMARY**

Generally, this bill requires the secretary of the state to review how municipalities implement the state's Plan of Redistricting (i.e., redistricting plan) following the decennial U.S. Census, and for municipalities to correct any errors.

Specifically, once registrars in each municipality finish implementing the redistricting plan, the secretary must review their actions to ensure that the plan has been properly implemented and interpreted. If there is an implementation error, the secretary must notify the applicable registrars of voters and require them to correct it. The registrars must immediately correct the error and certify in writing to the secretary when it is done. (The bill does not establish deadlines by which registrars must finish implementing the plans or by which the secretary must review them.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Redistricting Authority***

The Connecticut Constitution establishes the state's redistricting process. Generally, the process requires (1) a bipartisan legislative committee to prepare the Plan of Redistricting for state Senate, state House, and Congressional districts, and (2) the General Assembly to approve it by September 15 of the year following the decennial census.

If the General Assembly does not timely approve the plan, a nine-member Reapportionment Commission, consisting of legislator-

designated members and one state elector, is formed to do the job and has until November 30 to do so (i.e., approve by a vote of at least five members). If the commission fails to meet the November 30 deadline, the Connecticut Supreme Court has the authority to compel the commission to complete its task or the court can draw the district boundaries itself by the following February 15. In these cases, the Plan of Redistricting has the full force of law when the commission or the court, as applicable, submits it to the secretary of the state and the secretary publishes it (Conn. Const. Art. III., § 6).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (04/05/2021)