

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6325

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE,
ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 10272)

House Calendar No.: 367

Senate Calendar No.: 568

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

This bill establishes a task force to study the feasibility of implementing procedures under which absentee ballot applicants return absentee ballots using one envelope, and a working group to examine risk-limiting audits and oversee a related pilot program, within available appropriations, in five to ten municipalities for the 2021 municipal elections.

The establishment of a task force has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

A municipality may incur minimal costs to take part in the pilot program; however, as the pilot program is voluntary it is assumed that a municipality would participate only to the extent it has available resources.

The bill establishes a twenty-two-member Council on Sexual

Misconduct Climate Surveys, which will be part of the legislative department. The council members will be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. This potential cost is anticipated to be minimal. By January 1, 2022, and every two years thereafter, the council will submit a report to the higher education committee including the data points that each institution's survey must encompass, the recommended sexual misconduct climate surveys, and the recommended guidelines for survey implementation.

The bill requires employers to give an employee two hours of unpaid time off from his or her regularly scheduled work on the day of a regular state election to vote, if the employee requests it in advance. This is effective until June 30, 2024.

The bill states that a voter's name and address is confidential and prohibits their disclosure from the voter registry list if the voter submits a signed statement to the secretary of the state indicating that nondisclosure is necessary for the safety of the voter or his or her family. Giving a false statement is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison, up to a \$2,000 fine.

Lastly, the bill also moves up the deadline by which minor parties must file a copy of their party rules with the Secretary of the State, from at least 60 days to at least 180 days, before nominating candidates for office. This provision has no fiscal impact.

House "A" establishes a twenty-two-member Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys, requires employers to give an employee two hours of unpaid time off from his or her regularly scheduled work on the day of a regular state election to vote, and states that a voter's name and address is confidential and prohibits their disclosure from the voter registry list if the voter submits a signed statement to the secretary of the state indicating that nondisclosure is necessary for the safety of the voter or his or her family.

The Out Years

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

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.