

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-5

AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ABSENTEE VOTING, SAFE AND SECURE IN-PERSON VOTING,
VOTER REGISTRATION AND CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES
REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 9130

File Copy No.: 570

Senate Calendar No.: 338

OFA Fiscal Note

Reduces Cost in Bill

This amendment significantly reduces the costs in the underlying bill.

The amendment strikes the provisions allowing people to apply for an absentee ballot through a telephonic system. This eliminates a cost to the Secretary of State of approximately \$500,000 - \$1 million. There are still significant costs associated with an online absentee ballot application system. Please note that on April 16, 2021 the Secretary of the State was allocated \$4 million in bond funds from the IT Capital Investment program for various election technology upgrades.

The amendment eliminates the requirement that employers give an employee two hours of paid time off on the day of a regular state election to vote. Instead, the amendment requires employers to provide two hours of unpaid time off to vote. This change significantly reduces the cost to the state and municipalities (including local and regional boards of education). However, there is still a cost associated with providing unpaid time off for certain positions (for example; state troopers, correction officers, or municipal police officers). The state and

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municipalities would incur overtime costs to cover these types of positions. The extent of the state and municipal costs depends on the number of employees requesting unpaid time off to vote.

The amendment strikes the provision making Election Day a state holiday. This eliminates the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) cost of \$35,000 and eliminates municipal costs associated with election staff and police overtime costs.

The amendment strikes the provision requiring towns to print ballots in certain minority group's language for primaries, elections and referenda. This eliminates the SOTS cost of \$30,000.

The amendment requires the Secretary of the State to conduct a study of the technological and staffing capabilities of various state agencies to provide an electronic system for voter registration applications. There is no cost to conduct this study.

The amendment strikes the provision wherein a police officer escorts a municipal clerk retrieving absentee ballots from secure drop boxes. This will reduce the minimal municipal costs noted in the underlying bill associated with absentee ballot retrieval.

The amendment makes changes associated with the month municipal elections are held that do not have a fiscal impact.

The amendment makes numerous other changes that have no fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

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.