

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-254

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RISK-LIMITING AUDITS WORKING GROUP.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	1,931,400	632,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Cost	50,000	50,000

Explanation

This bill implements risk limiting audits and results in annual costs to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) of \$1.9 million in FY 25 and \$632,000 in FY 26 and annually thereafter. Costs of \$1,571,400 in FY 25 and \$422,000 in FY 26 are associated with the bill's requirements for SOTS to provide instructions and materials for risk limiting audits.

This will require a one-time cost to support equipment for municipalities of \$1,379,400¹ in FY 25, as well as an ongoing annual cost of \$192,000 for risk limiting audit software and as part of an amended agreement with the UCONN voter center. There will be an additional cost of \$230,000 per year beginning in FY 26 associated with ongoing maintenance and upkeep.

¹ This includes the equipment necessary to complete the audits at the local level, including printing costs.

Additionally, it is expected that SOTS will incur costs of \$360,000 in FY 25 and \$210,000 in FY 26 to contract with the UConn Voter Center to assist implementing the bill's provisions. These costs, which are paid by SOTS but ultimately borne by UConn, are associated with developing and testing auditing software and processes and conducting the audits.

The bill alters standards of risk limiting audits and results in additional costs to municipalities. This comes primarily from the additional cost of labor to complete risk limiting audits. The bill requires that the officials administering and conducting the risk limiting audit must be compensated at the municipalities standard rate of pay for electors. The extent of the cost depends on the requirements of the risk limiting audits, the number of them conducted and the level of compensation for the election officials within each municipality is estimated at approximately \$50,000 per year².

The Out Years

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

² The estimated cost for election labor for two officials per town working six hours at the existing hourly rate is anticipate at \$49,961.90.