

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-184

AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than \$5,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	Minimal	None

Explanation

Sections 1, 2, 9 and 10 delay the period during which towns must publish a warning about a state or municipal election or primary occurring before November 9, 2022. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of these provisions.

Sections 3 and 4 expand the reasons for which an elector may vote by absentee ballot for any election, primary, or referendum occurring before November 9, 2022 to include the sickness of COVID-19. As a result of these provisions, certain municipalities may incur increased costs. Potential cost increases will vary by municipality and will depend on the number of additional absentee ballots printed and mailed.

These sections also modify the statutory reasons for which qualified

voters may vote by absentee ballot to include: 1) illness, rather than their own illness as current law provides; and 2) absence from the town of their voting residence, rather than absence from the town of their voting residence during all hours as under current law. These changes are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

Section 4 also expands violations that constitute a false statement which results in a potential minimal revenue gain of less than \$5,000 in FY 23.

Section 5 authorizes the Secretary of the State (SOS) to make changes to absentee voting forms and materials. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

Section 6 allows the SOS to approve and select a third-party vendor for town clerks' use in mailing absentee voting sets for elections prior to November 9, 2022. It is expected the SOS will not be contracting with a third-party vendor for 2022 election absentee ballots. This provision has no fiscal impact on the SOS.

Section 7 allows town clerks to deliver sorted and checked absentee ballots to registrars before the day of an election, primary, or referendum to begin certain pre-counting procedures. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

Sections 8 requires any municipality conducting pre-counting procedures to do so at a central location. This provision has no fiscal impact.

Section 11, which has no fiscal impact, requires municipalities that opt to use pre-counting procedures to follow certain prescribed steps.

Section 12 allows the SOS to waive any requirements under the mandatory supervised absentee voting law in recognition of a public health or civil preparedness emergency declared by the governor. This provision has no fiscal impact.

Section 13 moves up the deadline for when an elector who has

submitted a completed absentee ballot can request to withdraw it if they later find they can vote in person. This has no fiscal impact.

Sections 14 - 19 extends numerous deadlines and timeframes associated with processing absentee ballots and canvassing and reports the returns. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of these provisions.

The Out Years

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