

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sSB-441

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OVERSIGHT.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Approximately 250,000	Approximately 250,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	98,759	98,759

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill establishes the Municipal Election Accountability Board (MEAB) within the office of the Secretary of the State (SOTS) and empowers the board to review misconduct when a case is referred to them and provide oversight when violations have occurred, resulting in a cost to the State of approximately \$350,000 in FY 25 and FY 26, and a potential cost to municipalities.

The board is empowered to institute oversight of a municipality for violations along a four-tier basis consisting of varying levels of oversight

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

authority if misconduct is found. There is a potential cost to municipalities depending upon if misconduct is found and what oversight is designated by MEAB.

The bill results in a cost of \$250,000 in FY 25 and FY 26 for salary and other expenses to SOTS and \$99,000 for fringe benefits for three additional staff members to facilitate the board as outlined in the bill (Attorney II, Administrative Assistant, and a Elections Officer²). There is an additional cost due to the requirement for reimbursement of expenses to board members reasonable expenses related to the performance of the job. This may include things like meeting space, software, technology required to facilitate meetings. This cost is expected to vary depending upon the number of meetings required.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, wage increases, the number of meetings and oversight decisions of MEAB.

² There is an annual salary cost of \$97,141 for an Attorney II; \$62,221 for and Administrative Assistant; and \$80,053 for an Elections Officer.