

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1535

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO EARLY VOTING.

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	53,500	46,700

Note: GF=General Fund

#### ***Municipal Impact:***

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Mansfield; New Britain; Stamford; Windham; Danbury; New Haven	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Up to 100,000	Up to 125,000

#### ***Explanation***

The bill makes a variety of changes to Connecticut's law on early in-person voting and results in the fiscal impacts described below.

**Section 1**, requires that certain municipalities that host qualifying public universities to open a second early-in person voting location on campus resulting in a cost of \$53,500 to the Secretary of the States' Office in FY 26 and a cost of \$46,700 in FY 27. These costs are associated with the one-time cost of installation of Central Voter Registration System

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<sup>1</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

(CVRS) lines<sup>2</sup> for five universities in FY 26, and the monthly maintenance costs for each<sup>3</sup> additional location. It is expected that this provision will impact one additional university in FY 27<sup>4</sup>.

Additionally, there is an expected total cost for impacted municipalities of up to \$100,000 in FY 26 and up to \$125,000 in FY 27. This cost is associated with the additional cost of labor and supplies to facilitate an additional early-in person voting location for each impacted town. This is expected to impact five towns in FY 26 and six towns in FY 27. The exact cost will depend on the number, cost, and availability of election workers.

This section also makes a variety of changes to early-in person voting procedures that result in potential savings to each municipality. This savings is associated with no longer requiring the usage of an outer envelope, removing several storage requirements, and instead allowing electors to place their ballot directly into the tabulator for counting and storage. The exact savings will vary by town and depend on the reduction in labor and printing as a result of the bill.

The remaining sections of the bill make a variety of changes that result in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, number of election workers required, and the complexity of elections.

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<sup>2</sup> The cost to install CVRS lines is anticipated to cost \$3,500 each.

<sup>3</sup> The ongoing subscription and maintenance cost for CVRS lines is \$600 per month or \$7,220 per year, per municipality.

<sup>4</sup> UCONN Stamford is expected to require a voting location beginning in FY 27.