



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1126

LR 13(03)

An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

State Mandate - Funded

| | FY 2021-22 | FY 2022-23 | Projections FY 2023-24 | Projections FY 2024-25 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Net Cost (Savings) | | | | |
| General Fund | \$49,000 | \$300,979 | \$123,450 | \$123,450 |
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| General Fund | \$49,000 | \$300,979 | \$123,450 | \$123,450 |

State Mandates

| Required Activity | Unit Affected | Local Cost |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Requires the registrar of voters to mail signature cards for online voter registrations. | Municipality | Moderate statewide |

The required local activities in this bill may represent a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. If the bill does require a local unit of government to expand or modify its activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenue, the state mandate provisions of the Constitution of Maine require either: (1) General Fund appropriations be provided to fund at least 90% of any additional necessitated local costs of the mandate; or (2) a Mandate Preamble be added to the bill and two-thirds of the members of each House vote to exempt the mandate from the funding requirement. If the bill does represent a state mandate and neither one of these actions occurs, the local units of government will not be required to implement the mandated activities.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$49,000 (\$25,000 one-time and \$24,000 ongoing) in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$300,979 in fiscal year 2022-23 to the Department of Secretary of State for contracted programming costs and related costs to implement online voter registration.

The cost to municipalities to mail signature cards is estimated to be \$110,500 without return postage included. The Department of Secretary of State will require a General Fund appropriation of \$99,450 beginning in fiscal year 2023-24 to reimburse municipalities for 90% of the cost associated with mailing signature cards.