



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 636

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7242

House of Representatives, April 9, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT STUDYING EFFORTS TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PILOT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE SUCH EFFORTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established a task force to
2 study (1) efforts to achieve one hundred per cent voter participation in
3 this state by January 1, 2030, (2) means of enhancing civic engagement
4 generally in this state, (3) experiences of jurisdictions that have enacted
5 policies to require citizens to vote as a civic duty, (4) potential
6 implementation options in pursuit of achieving such one hundred per
7 cent voter participation goal, (5) needs of municipal officials, including,
8 but not limited to, registrars of voters and town clerks, in administering
9 elections in which one hundred per cent of voters participate, and (6)
10 budgetary resources that may be required to achieve such one hundred
11 per cent voter participation goal.

12 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 13 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 14 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 15 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
16 Representatives;
- 17 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 18 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
19 Representatives;
- 20 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 21 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 22 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.
- 23 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
24 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
25 of the General Assembly.
- 26 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
27 than August 1, 2025. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
28 authority.
- 29 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
30 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
31 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
32 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than
33 September 1, 2025.
- 34 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
35 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
36 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 37 (g) Not later than February 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
38 on its findings and recommendations, including potential legislation to
39 appropriate funds or provide other resources to municipalities for the

40 purposes of increasing voter participation, to the joint standing
41 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
42 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
43 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
44 submits such report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Subject to the provisions of title 9
46 of the general statutes and section 7-192a of the general statutes, any
47 municipality may, within existing resources, establish a pilot program
48 to promote the goal of achieving one hundred per cent voter
49 participation in such municipality. Such pilot program may include
50 efforts to enhance civic engagement, including, but not limited to, the
51 development and conduct of a voter outreach and education campaign
52 within such municipality.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section |

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2, "the achievement of" was changed to "the goal of achieving" for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 26 \$ | FY 27 \$ |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| All Municipalities | Potential Cost | See Below | See Below |

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to any municipality that chooses to implement a civic engagement pilot program. The fiscal impact to a municipality will depend on the design of the voter outreach campaign they design and implement.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7242****AN ACT STUDYING EFFORTS TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PILOT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE SUCH EFFORTS.****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes an 11-member task force to study ways to achieve 100% voter participation and enhance civic engagement, as well as assess the administrative and financial barriers to reach these goals. By February 1, 2026, the task force must report to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee on its findings and recommendations, including any potential legislation to direct resources or funds to municipalities for increasing voter participation. The task force terminates on the date that it submits its report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

The bill also allows municipalities, within existing resources, to establish a pilot program to promote the goal of achieving 100% municipal voter participation. The program may include efforts to enhance civic engagement, including voter outreach and education campaigns. The bill specifies that these pilot programs are subject to the state's election law and municipal restrictions on diverging from certain state election policies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

VOTER PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE

The task force must study (1) efforts to achieve 100% voter participation in the state by January 1, 2030, and potential implementation options; (2) ways to generally enhance civic engagement; (3) the experiences of jurisdictions that require citizens to vote; (4) municipal officials' needs in administering elections with 100%

participation; and (5) needed budgetary resources to achieve 100% participation.

The task force members include the secretary of the state, or her designee, and 10 members appointed as follows:

1. two each by the governor, House speaker, and Senate president pro tempore; and
2. one each by the majority and minority leaders of each chamber.

Members appointed by the legislative leaders may be legislators. The bill requires (1) initial appointments to be made by August 1, 2025, and (2) the first meeting to be held by September 1, 2025. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairperson, who must schedule the first meeting. The GAE Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2025)