

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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

HB-7241

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL.

## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

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

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	Up to 25,000	Up to 25,000

Note: GF=General Fund

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

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Cost	Up to 850,000	Up to 1,050,000

## ***Explanation***

This bill authorizes all eligible voters to apply for and cast an absentee ballot resulting in the costs described below.

The bill results in a cost to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) of up to 25,000<sup>2</sup> in FY 26 and FY 27<sup>3</sup>. This cost is associated with the printing costs for an expected increase in the number of absentee ballot applications and ballot information. The exact cost will depend on the number of additional electors who choose to vote absentee as a result of the

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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.

<sup>2</sup> FY 26 estimate includes expected costs for a municipal general election, and a municipal primary.

<sup>3</sup> FY 27 estimate includes a state election, and state election primary.

legislation<sup>4</sup>.

The bill additionally, results in a cost to municipalities of up to \$850,000 in FY 26<sup>5</sup> and up to \$1,050,000 in FY 27<sup>6</sup> due to printing, postage, labor, and storage costs to process the expected increase in absentee voting. The exact cost will vary by town depending on the number of additional absentee ballots printed, applications mailed, and labor and resources required to facilitate additional absentee voting.

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

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, voter preference of voting method, and participation.

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<sup>4</sup> The expected ceiling assumes a 10% increase in each town's absentee voting participation over 2024 figures. This figure could be higher depending on actual voter participation via absentee voting. A 10% increase by town would represent an estimated increase of 273,812 absentee voters for a general election.

<sup>5</sup> FY 26 estimate includes expected costs for a municipal general election, and a municipal primary.

<sup>6</sup> FY 27 estimate includes a state election, and state election primary.