
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1553

Emergency Certification

AN ACT EXCLUDING APRIL 20, 2025, FROM THE PERIOD OF EARLY VOTING PRIOR TO THE DAY OF A SPECIAL ELECTION AND SUSPENDING THE MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING ACCOUNT SPENDING CAP.

SUMMARY

This bill adjusts the upcoming special election early voting period and suspends the municipal spending cap.

By law, municipalities must provide early voting for a four-day period before special elections. Specifically, the period must begin five days before the election and end two days prior. The law currently allows this period to be adjusted to exclude legal holidays and March 31, 2024, which was the date of Easter in 2024, as long as there are still four days of early voting. The bill substitutes the specific 2024 date with April 20, 2025, which is this year's date of Easter (§ 1).

Current law generally requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to reduce a municipality's municipal revenue sharing grant if the municipality's budget expenditures exceed the statutory spending cap (see BACKGROUND). For FY 26, the bill prohibits OPM from doing so. It also makes minor and technical changes to reorganize certain defined terms (§ 2).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, except that the early voting provision is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Municipal Spending Cap

The cap is the greater of the inflation rate or 2.5% or more of the prior fiscal year's "adopted budget expenditures" (spending from a municipality's general fund and any nonbudgeted funds).

Municipalities that increase their general budget expenditures over the previous fiscal year by an amount that exceeds this cap receive a reduced revenue sharing grant. The reduction is equal to 50 cents for every dollar the municipality spends over the cap (CGS § 4-661(f)).