## OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SHB-7228 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REFORMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS IN THIS STATE. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 10617 File Copy No.: 693

House Calendar No.: 433

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

## Cost

The amendment creates a variety of additional provisions around absentee voting, including additional requirements to municipalities, the Office of the Secretary of the State (SOTS), and the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) resulting in a cost to SOTS, a potential cost to SEEC and a cost to municipalities.

The amendment requires SOTS to examine roughly 2.3 million registered voters against several databases to determine eligibility resulting in a cost. This cost is associated with additional staff hours and resources required to meet the provisions of the bill.

The amendment creates an additional set of procedures for municipal registrars following elections, requiring the usage of additional labor and postage or printing costs. The exact cost will depend on the number of absentee ballots received by each municipality, and the additional resources required to comply with the provisions of the bill.

Additionally, the amendment requires municipalities to reach out to absentee voters following the election; and requires them to refer names of those who participated via absentee voting but who did not receive post-election mailings due to the address being undeliverable to SEEC. This results in a potential cost to SEEC to the extent that additional

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resources are required to complete investigations created by the amendment.

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