

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5253

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING PROCEDURES FOR AND STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION OVERSIGHT OF FIRE DISTRICTS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Elections Enforcement Commission	GF - Cost	None	91,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	None	36,000
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	None	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates new requirements around elections and oversight for fire districts within the state and expands the authority of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to oversee those elections, resulting in a General Fund cost of \$127,000 in FY 28 and \$124,000 annually thereafter.

Section 1 imposes a series of requirements on the conduct of elections within fire districts and empowers SEEC to investigate and issue civil penalties for violations of up to \$2,000 per offense, resulting in a potential minimal revenue gain to the General Fund beginning in FY 28. The exact revenue gain will depend on the number and value of

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

additional penalties imposed by SEEC and the courts in response to the legislation.

Sections 2 and 3 expand SEEC's authority and oversight responsibilities for elections within fire districts, resulting in a cost of \$91,000 to SEEC in FY 28 and \$88,000 annually thereafter, with an associated annual fringe cost of \$36,000 beginning in FY 28. SEEC will need to hire one legal investigator at a salary of \$86,000 to support the expanded responsibilities and oversight created by the bill's provisions. Other expenses costs for the position total \$5,000 in FY 28 and \$2,000 annually thereafter, for a one-time equipment cost of approximately \$3,000 in FY 28 and an ongoing annual legal software cost of \$2,000 beginning in FY 28.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to inflation and the number of additional fines imposed in response to the bill.