

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5001

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND
VARIOUS OTHER REFORMS RELATED TO THE
ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 6011

File Copy No.: 725

House Calendar No.: 348

Senate Calendar No.: 460

OFA Fiscal Note

Cost

The amendment makes a variety of changes to absentee voting statutes, including requiring that the Secretary of the State (SOTS) develop and implement a process for signature verification, resulting in a significant cost to SOTS and a cost to municipalities beginning in FY 27.

The cost to SOTS is approximately \$25.6 million to \$34.2 million in FY 27, with an ongoing annual cost of \$250,000 to \$400,000 thereafter. The FY 27 cost is associated primarily with software costs.¹ The ongoing annual costs are for recurring software licensing and training.² The exact cost will depend on the system used to complete signature verification.

Additionally, there is a cost to municipalities due to the additional workload created by the amendment. This cost is associated with the additional election workers required to implement signature

¹ Signature verification software and equipment was estimated to require a one-time payment of \$150,000-\$200,000 per town as of 2022. There is also an annual licensing cost of between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for the state. Both costs would ultimately be borne by SOTS.

² This is expected to cost \$150,000-\$200,000 per year to train election workers as of 2022.

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verification, the additional hours from current workers, and other resources required to implement the amendment. The exact cost will vary by town.

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