

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-459

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CIRCULATION OF
PRIMARY AND NOMINATING PETITIONS AND DISTRIBUTION
OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS.
AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 6144

File Copy No.: 500

Senate Calendar No.: 312

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impacts, resulting in the fiscal impact described below.

The amendment prohibits certain individuals from circulating nominating petitions and requires a background check for circulators. The amendment's background check requirement results in a cost to the

¹ 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.

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(SM)

Secretary of the State (SOTS) and various municipalities beginning in FY 27.

The amendment requires that SOTS, a municipal registrar of voters, or a town clerk order a background check for each circulator. Different officials must order the background check for circulators depending on the type of election for which the circulator is petitioning, although one portion of the amendment (Section 3) indicates that either the town clerk or SOTS must order the background check for any circulator. The exact cost of the background checks will depend on the number of applicable circulators. A basic national background check is estimated to cost \$20 to \$100 per report, depending on the depth of the search.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to inflation, and the number of circulators subject to a background check under the amendment's provisions.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.