

SB 418-FN- FISCAL NOTE
 AS AMENDED BY TH SENATE (AMENDMENT #2022-1096s)

AN ACT relative to verification of voter affidavits.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$235,000	\$0	\$450,000
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	\$0	Indeterminable Increase

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes affidavit balloting for voters who are not registered on the checklist or who do not have a valid photo identification. The affidavit balloting would include a serial numbered ballot to be used for voting at the municipality. The voter would also receive a voter packet containing a USPS Priority Mail Express (overnight delivery) envelope and an affidavit voter verification letter, in duplicate form. The voter is to leave one copy of the verification letter with the authorized election official and return their affidavit verification letter with required documentation, in the provided envelope, within 10 days of the election to the Secretary of State's Office. If an affidavit voter fails to send the required documentation to the Secretary of State within 10 days, the Secretary of State would notify local election officials, who would retrieve the voter's ballot and deduct it from the election totals and votes contained on the ballot.

The Department of State indicates there would an increase expense to the General Fund in FY 2023 and FY 2025 of \$235,000 and \$450,000 respectively. The Department assumed they would need 12,000 packets, accounting for both the primary and general elections to ensure a sufficient amount of packets at each polling locations. The cost of the preparation of the packets is estimated to be \$5 per packet equating to \$60,000. The Department assumes in FY 2023 there will be the same amount of voters using the affidavit process as the November 2020 election (4,244) and an additional 50% for the primary (2,122). The postage for each returned

envelope is \$26.95. Multiplying the 6,366 voters by the postage cost rounds to an estimated \$170,000 for postage cost. The Department also would incur \$3,000 in overtime pay. The Department assumes in FY 2025, because it is a presidential year, the expenses will be doubled.

The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) states there would be an indeterminable fiscal impact on local expenditures. The NHMA states they could incur additional expenditures to instruct voters on the affidavit ballot and sending of documentation to the Secretary of State, hand counting all affidavit ballots and taking the additional action on the ballots after election day. The expenditures will vary depending on the municipality.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State and New Hampshire Municipal Association