

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2023 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 37
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB037-OOG-DOE-3-24-23
Title: ELECTIONS, VOTING, BALLOTS
Sponsor: SCHRAGE
Requester: (H) STATE AFFAIRS

Department: Office of the Governor
Appropriation: Elections
Allocation: Elections
OMB Component Number: 21

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2024	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2024 Request	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2024	FY 2024					
Personal Services	40.3		40.3	40.3	40.3	40.3	40.3
Travel							
Services	190.0		190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	230.3	0.0	230.3	230.3	230.3	230.3	230.3

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	230.3		230.3	230.3	230.3	230.3	230.3
Total	230.3	0.0	230.3	230.3	230.3	230.3	230.3

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2023) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2024) cost: 5,125.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? **Yes**
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **07/01/24**

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version

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Division:	Division of Elections	Date:	03/24/2023 04:50 PM
Approved By:	Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Director	Date:	03/24/23
Agency:	Office of the Governor		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 37

Analysis

This legislation proposes numerous revisions to Alaska's election laws impacting the Division of Elections' services and procedures for all state-administered elections beginning with the 2024 primary and general elections.

Significant changes include providing public notice of precinct boundary or polling place changes; publishing rankings of each candidate if unofficial results are published; implementing an online ballot tracking system; establishing procedures for curing uncounted ballots; providing postage-paid return envelopes; setting a minimum hourly rate for election workers; and providing a report to the legislature recommending options for expanding early voting in rural and low-income neighborhoods.

Should this bill pass, the division estimates that these changes will require the following unrestricted general fund (UGF) expenses:

Primary and General Election Cycle Operating Expenses Beginning in FY24:

Personal Services:

\$80.5 (Seven non-permanent Election Clerks, range 12, to address ballot curing processes)

Services:

\$140.0 (Postage)

\$ 6.0 (Annual software maintenance and licensing)

\$ 4.0 (Election Board Services)

\$ 40.0 (BallotTrax or similar ballot tracking subscription)

\$150.0 Signature Verification system - ongoing support

\$ 40.0 Training for signature validation process

FY24 Capital Costs for new systems required by this legislation:

\$5,125.0 Signature Verification system implementation in each district.

Funding note: Beginning in FY17, the operating cost of holding primary and general elections every two years was divided in half to reduce volatility in the final authorized budget of the Division of Elections while allowing for sufficient funding to conduct elections. In keeping with that practice, the above listed costs would be split in half each fiscal year to smooth the funding requirement of this legislation, and included as two-year language items in an operating budget appropriations bill.

Passage of this legislation would require the following regulation changes:

6 AAC 25.650. Permanent absentee voter regulations would need to be amended to include the option for permanent absentee ballot packages. New regulations would need to be adopted to address procedures for postage-paid return envelopes for absentee ballots and for the cured ballot process. New regulations would be needed to define a process for submitting an electronic image of an applicant's signature.