

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 52
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB052-OOG-DOE-1-31-25
Title: ABSENTEE BALLOTS
Sponsor: HUGHES
Requester: Senate 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)

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Personal Services			243.0		243.0		243.0
Travel							
Services			15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	258.0	15.0	258.0	15.0	258.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)			258.0	15.0	258.0	15.0	258.0
Total	0.0	0.0	258.0	15.0	258.0	15.0	258.0

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 (FY2025) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) cost: 75.0 (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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/26

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

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Division:	Division of Elections	Date:	01/31/2025 02:00 PM
Approved By:	Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Services Director	Date:	01/31/25
Agency:	Office of the Governor		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 52

Analysis

This bill proposes changes to election law related to receipt and counting of absentee ballots and to the timeframes to mail out absentee ballots. While there are several conflicts between this legislation and other statutory requirements for the Division of Elections, this fiscal note assumes those conflicts would be addressed. Fiscal impacts are based on the assumptions outlined below.

1. Requiring all absentee ballots to be processed and reviewed by election day will mean that processes will have to take place at the same time that previously occurred in sequence. Absentee boards will meet at the same time that early voting is occurring. To process and review the absentee ballots, the division estimates they will need to be postmarked 15 days before election day.
2. Extra space would need to be acquired during this timeframe to accommodate Early Voting, absentee review boards and scanning of ballots at the same time in order to meet the 11:59 on election day deadline.
3. The bill requires secure, transparent containers for shipping ballots. The division estimates that at least 230 transparent, secure containers at least 17 inches long would be required for mailed ballots. The division is unable to determine if containers meeting this criterion are manufactured, so the cost is indeterminate.
4. The bill requires video recording devices for viewing the transparent containers containing ballots; 230 cameras would be required. However, if the containers were in the possession of the post office bypass mail carrier, the division would not have any control over the video devices or containers until they were in the division's possession. The cost for these cameras, if they exist for a purpose such as this, is indeterminate.
5. Leased space for two weeks of Early Voting (Regions 1, 2, 5): The division would need to procure three locations to conduct early voting to accommodate the absentee review board and scanning processes at the regional offices. This would require a procurement process of locating available facilities. The cost at this time is indeterminate.
6. The division estimates that completing absentee ballot review by election staff and absentee boards and the scanning of ballots by staff would require at least 60 election workers over the two weeks prior to and on election day.

Costs (All Unrestricted General Fund)

Personal Services for temporary election workers as described above (election year cost)	\$ 243.0
Contractual Services for scanner maintenance and office space (annual cost beginning in FY27)	\$ 15.0
Capital: Three ICC Scanners and materials @ \$25.0 each	\$ 75.0