

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2023 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 138
 Fiscal Note Number: _____
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB138-OOG-DOE-4-28-23
 Title: ELECTIONS; VOTER REG.; CAMPAIGNS
 Sponsor: STATE AFFAIRS
 Requester: (S) 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 2024	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	40.3
Travel								
Services	302.0		222.0	222.0	222.0	222.0	222.0	222.0
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	342.3	0.0	262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	342.3		262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3
Total	342.3	0.0	262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3	262.3

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	7.0		7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0

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: 5,725.0 *(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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/24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: 04/28/2023 01:00 PM
Approved By: Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Director	Date: 04/28/23
Agency: Office of the Governor	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 138

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 changes to rules for determining residence of voters, ability to challenge residence, designing and implementing risk limiting audits, counting absentee ballots before election day, implementing an online ballot tracking system, establishing procedures for curing uncounted ballots, providing postage-paid return envelopes, modifying the voter registration system for language preference, drop boxes for by-mail elections and implementing a signature verification system.

Timing Note: It may not be feasible to implement a signature verification system in time for the 2024 primary and general elections. A system would have to be procured, purchased, and deployed within a very short timeframe. Training would also have to be conducted for staff in each region.

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 for prepaid envelopes

\$110.0 First year for envelopes printed to meet signature and barcode requirements; approximately
\$60.0 for succeeding years

\$ 6.0 Annual software maintenance and licensing

\$ 8.0 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 and items required by this legislation:

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

\$ 500.0 Voter registration system modifications for language preference.

\$ 100.0 Drop boxes (purchase and shipping)

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 to include the option for permanent absentee ballot packages.

New regulations for postage-paid return envelopes for absentee ballots

New regulations for ballot curing process.

New regulations would be needed to define a process for submitting an electronic image of an applicant's signature

New regulations for same day registration