

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2024 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 129
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB129SCSCS(STA)-OOG-DOE-5-7-24
Title: VOTER REGISTRATION
Sponsor: JUDICIARY
Requester: (S) FINANCE

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)

	FY2025 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2025 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	180.7		140.5	140.5	140.5	140.5	140.5	140.5
Travel								
Services	420.0		165.0	165.0	165.0	165.0	165.0	165.0
Commodities	100.0		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	700.7	0.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	700.7		308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0
Total	700.7	0.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0	308.0

Positions

Full-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary	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 (FY2024) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2025) cost: 660.0 *(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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **07/01/25**

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Updated to reflect changes made by the House Judiciary Committee that require the Division of Elections to check specific databases in reviewing the master register and changes made in the Senate State Affairs Committee to incorporate certain provisions of other election-related legislation (SB 1, SB 138, SB 177, and SB 246).

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Division:	Division of Elections	Date:	05/06/2024 02:00 PM
Approved By:	Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Director	Date:	05/07/24
Agency:	Office of the Governor		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCSCSHB 129(STA)

Analysis

This bill makes many changes to election laws and processes. It shortens the time for a voter to be removed from the voter rolls; eliminates the need to send a notice of removal by non-forwardable mail; eliminates the witness signature requirement for absentee voters; requires a cybersecurity program; requires risk-limiting audits to be conducted; allows persons to register to vote within 30 days and up to election day; allows a special needs ballot to be accepted if the mistakes were made by the representative or election official; requires the Division of Elections (division) to use additional and specific databases sourced from governmental agencies outside the division when reviewing the master register; requires the adoption of a best practice voter registration system; requires a process and posting of the process to cancel a voter's registration; requires notification to the legislature and public of a data breach; implements a cure process for deficient absentee ballots; and requires a disclosure notification for election-related communications that use artificial intelligence deepfakes.

The division estimates that these changes will require the following unrestricted general fund (UGF) expenses:

Personal Services:

- \$100.2 for one full-time Analyst Programmer 2, Range 16, for systems maintenance and reports;
- \$80.5 for seven non-permanent Election Clerks, Range 12, for the ballot curing process (funding required each election fiscal year thereafter).

Services:

- \$10.0 each year for annual core services charges;
- \$100.0 in services costs for annual maintenance and system updates beginning in FY26;
- \$100.0 in one-time contractual services to implement risk-auditing processes and procedures;
- \$110.0 first year for absentee ballot envelopes to meet new requirements (\$60.0 each following election year);
- \$100.0 in one-time training for staff on cure processes, cybersecurity training, new registration timelines, and updating training materials;
- \$50.0 translation services required each election year;
- \$50.0 one-time system changes for sending notices by forwardable mail and only one notice.

Commodities:

- \$100.0 for office furniture and supplies (1 FTE, 7 temp staff) in FY2025;
- \$5.0 for supplies in subsequent election years.

Capital:

- \$660.0 UGF for software and programming required by this legislation to implement new search interfaces.

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 authorized budget of the division while allowing sufficient funding to conduct elections. In keeping with that practice, the above-listed ongoing costs, with the exception of the Analyst Programmer, would be split in half each fiscal year beginning in FY26 to smooth the funding requirement of this legislation and included as two-year language items in an operating budget appropriations bill.

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STATE OF ALASKA
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCSCSHB 129(STA)

Analysis

Passage of this bill will require the division to adopt new regulations. A 07/01/25 adoption date is estimated to allow adequate time for drafting, review, and public comment. Regulations required include:

- New regulations for review and updates to master register (AS 15.07.130)
- New regulations for data breach (AS 15.07.195)
- New regulations for risk-limiting audits (AS 15.15.455)
- New regulations for curing uncounted ballot (AS 15.20.221)
- New regulations for cybersecurity program (AS 15.80.006)