

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 43
 Fiscal Note Number: _____
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB043-OOG-DOE-2-06-25
 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)

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	134.6		134.6	134.6	134.6	134.6	134.6	134.6
Travel								
Services	25.8		25.8	25.8	25.8	25.8	25.8	25.8
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	160.4	0.0	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	160.4		160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4
Total	160.4	0.0	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary	5.0		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	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: 0.0 *(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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/26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.

Prepared By: <u>Carol Beecher, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-4611</u>
Division: <u>Division of Elections</u>	Date: <u>02/06/2025 12:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Services Director</u>	Date: <u>02/06/24</u>
Agency: <u>Office of the Governor</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB043

Analysis

This bill proposes numerous changes to election laws that will impact the Division of Elections (division). Concerning the specific changes that result in fiscal impacts, the bill:

- Amends AS 15.2.030 relating to the preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other materials to provide for postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for absentee ballots.
- Implements a cure process for deficient ballots.
- Requires Early voting and Absentee-in-person voting locations to be open 30 days before election day.

All costs presented are unrestricted general fund. This fiscal note assumes legislation is enacted in 2025 allowing time to implement required regulatory and systems changes for the 2026 election.

Requiring postage-paid envelopes for all absentee ballots in all districts. The number of absentee vote envelopes is based on 2024 numbers.

	Biennial Cost
Primary Election: 9,504 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope =	\$ 6.9
General Election: 51,212 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope=	<u>\$ 37.4</u>
Contractual Services	\$ 44.3

*Note: Primary and General Election costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the increment language section should be **half this amount or \$22.2.***

	Annual cost
REAA Election: 5,000 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope =	<u>\$ 3.7</u>
Contractual Services	\$ 3.7

Cost of staff required by this legislation:

Opening Absentee-in-person and Early voting sites 15 days earlier (30 days before election day)

	Biennial Cost
Early Voting Sites (12)	\$141.8
Absentee-in-person sites (210)	<u>\$ 47.5</u>
Personal Services	\$189.3

	Biennial Cost
Personal Services for five temporary staff for managing the cure process:	\$ 80.0

*Note: Primary and General Election costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the increment language section should be **half this amount or \$134.6***