

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB350

Patron: Roem

Bill Title: Elections; absentee voting; counting ballots prior to the close of polls.

Bill Summary: Allows officers of election at a central absentee precinct to begin ascertaining and recording the number of votes cast by absentee ballots at any time after noon on the day of the election. Under current law, absentee ballots that are counted by hand may be tallied, but not counted, at any time after noon on the day of the election, and no ballot totals for any absentee ballots shall be ascertained until after polls close. The bill also clarifies that vote totals for absentee ballots cast in person on voting systems cannot be determined until the day of the election. The bill also requires that general registrars begin processing absentee ballots on the fourteenth day prior to the day of the election. Under current law such processing is not required until the seventh day prior to the day of the election.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill.

Fiscal Analysis: As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as "routine," and does not require additional funding.

Other: N/A