

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB493 **Patron:** Hope  
**Bill Title:** Elections; absentee voting; accessibility; ballots received, marked, and cast electronically through the internet.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Department of Elections to make available to all localities a tool to allow a voter with a visual impairment or print disability or a covered voter to receive, mark, and return his absentee ballot electronically through the internet. The bill makes the tool available through the internet in lieu of other currently available assistive technologies.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 77  
**Explanation:** See Below

**Fiscal Summary:** There is an anticipated fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
The Department of Elections		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

**Fiscal Analysis:** The proposed legislation would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to make available to all localities a tool to allow a voter with a visual impairment or print disability or a covered voter to receive, mark, and return his absentee ballot electronically through the internet. The bill makes the tool available through the internet in lieu of other currently available assistive technologies. Based on an estimate from ELECT's current vendor that is used to send ballots for this function, the cost will approximately be \$250,000 ongoing for the software. Normally for software the market dictates that the price would be competitive. However, in the elections space the market is limited so there may or may not be competitive pricing to improve on the estimate.

**Other:** N/A