

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:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
The Department of Elections		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
TOTAL		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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