Wisconsin Department of Administration
Division of Executive Budget and Finance

Fiscal Estimate - 2003 Session

☒ Original   ☐ Updated   ☐ Corrected   ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number 03-0610/7	Introduction Number AB-600

Subject

Registration and voting requirements and procedures

Fiscal Effect

State:
☐ No State Fiscal Effect
☒ Indeterminate

☐ Increase Existing Appropriations   ☐ Increase Existing Revenues   ☒ Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget

☐ Decrease Existing Appropriations   ☐ Decrease Existing Revenues   ☐ Yes   ☒ No

☐ Create New Appropriations   ☐ Decrease Costs

Local:
☐ No Local Government Costs
☒ Indeterminate

1. ☒ Increase Costs   3. ☐ Increase Revenue
    ☐ Permissive ☒ Mandatory   ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

2. ☐ Decrease Costs   4. ☐ Decrease Revenue
    ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory   ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
☒ Towns   ☒ Village   ☒ Cities
☒ Counties   ☐ Others
☒ School Districts   ☐ WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected	**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**
☒ GPR ☒ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS	20.510

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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This legislation implements the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The federal law imposes significant requirements on the state with respect to the conduct of elections for federal office. Two of these requirements carry a significant cost: a statewide computerized voter registration list (SVRS) administered by the state's chief election official and accessible voting equipment that permits voters with disabilities to cast a vote privately and independently.

HAVA requires the state to develop a detailed implementation plan. A copy of Wisconsin's Initial State Plan is available at: http://elections.state.wi.us/HAVA/Final%20State%20Plan.pdf

Through July 1, 2006, the state anticipates spending as much as $44,410,200 to implement HAVA. A detailed expenditure chart is attached to this fiscal estimate.

The federal government has authorized $3.9 billion to fund HAVA. However, only a small amount has been appropriated to date. A detailed revenue chart is attached to this fiscal estimate.

The state needs to appropriate $810,000 to match the $15.39 million available to Wisconsin under the FFY 3 HAVA appropriation. A total of $333,000 in state funds has been appropriated to date. Federal requirements prohibit the state from using any base funding at the level appropriated before the November 2000 general election as part of the state 5% spending match.

Towns, villages and cities will need to provide a computer and internet access to utilize the SVRS. The state will pay the cost of software development and maintenance for the SVRS. Municipalities may also incur personnel costs to process new voter information on the SVRS system. This will replace the time and resources used to comply with current voter record maintenance requirements. The SVRS will provide a uniform manner for maintaining voter records throughout the state.

Municipalities will contribute some funding to meet the requirement for accessible voting equipment. Federal funds should cover the cost of all or part of the acquisition of a single touch-screen voting device for each of the state's 2,800 polling places. However, the state may choose a less expensive means to meet the requirement for an accessible voting system in each polling place, if such an alternative is identified.

The legislation permits counties to provide voter registration services and voting equipment to municipalities. County government may incur

costs to provide these services or may recover them through a contractual arrangement with the county.

State and local government will incur ongoing maintenance costs for the election infrastructure upgrades: a statewide voter registration system and accessible voting equipment at each polling place. The SVRS maintenance is estimated to cost approximately $1 million annually. The voting system maintenance will depend on the solution that is chosen to provide accessible voting.

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

See attached.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

See attached.