



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

July 19, 2011

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Government Accountability Board: Section 13.10 Request to Provide Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Match Funding -- Agenda Item III

REQUEST

In order to provide required state match funding of 5% for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010 HAVA award funding totaling \$1,285,090 FED, the Government Accountability Board (GAB) requests a one-time: (a) transfer of \$67,700 GPR in 2010-11, from its general program operations appropriation to its election administration transfer GPR appropriation; and (b) associated increase in expenditure authority of \$67,700 SEG in 2010-11 to its election administration appropriation. The appropriation language of the GPR election administration transfer appropriation would authorize the Board to transfer the \$67,700 GPR to the SEG election administration appropriation.

BACKGROUND

In order to be eligible for federal HAVA Title II payments, Wisconsin is required to develop a state election administration plan and provide a 5% state match. The initial five-year state election administration plan was approved by the Joint Committee on Finance, under s. 5.05(10) of the statutes, on April 14, 2005. The current 2009-14 state election administration plan was approved by the Joint Committee on Finance on October 13, 2009.

ANALYSIS

In addition to an approved five-year state election administration plan, the federal government requires that the necessary 5% in state match funding be deposited to the election administration fund that the state initially created under 2003 Wisconsin Act 266. Under the s. 13.10 item before the Committee, the Board is requesting that the Committee authorize the one-

time transfer of \$67,700 GPR in 2010-11 in base resources to the election administration fund. Authorizing the transfer of this funding to the GPR election administration transfer appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(d)] will permit the Board to further transfer this funding to the election administration fund under the authorizing language of the appropriation.

The base resources that would be transferred under the request have been provided to the Board for maintenance and support costs associated with the hosting of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) on DOA Division of Enterprise Technology hardware. While these base resources would be utilized to provide the required match for HAVA funding under the request, the Board indicates that the funds would continue to be expended for the purpose for which they were originally provided -- maintenance and support costs associated with hosting the SVRS.

As approval of this request will permit the state to receive federal HAVA funding totaling \$1,285,090 FED, the Committee may wish to approve this request. The Committee could also consider denying the request, however the Board has indicated that, "If the Committee does not approve this request it is likely the State will not be able to secure this funding which has been earmarked for Wisconsin elections. There are proposals at the federal level to pull back any state payments which have not been released by the U.S. EAC [Election Assistance Commission] to manage the current federal deficit."

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the request of the Government Accountability Board on a one-time basis to:
(a) transfer \$67,700 GPR in 2010-11, from its general program operations appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(a)] to its election administration transfer appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(d)]; and (b) provide associated increased expenditure authority of \$67,700 SEG in 2010-11 to its election administration appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(t)].
2. Deny the request.

Prepared by: Paul Onsager