



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 497**

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 395

*Senate, April 8, 2026*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT STUDYING EFFORTS TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PILOT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE SUCH EFFORTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a task force to  
2 study (1) efforts to achieve one hundred per cent voter participation in  
3 this state by January 1, 2030, (2) means of enhancing civic engagement  
4 generally in this state, (3) experiences of jurisdictions that have enacted  
5 policies to require citizens to vote as a civic duty, (4) potential  
6 implementation options in pursuit of achieving such one hundred per  
7 cent voter participation goal, (5) needs of registrars of voters, town  
8 clerks and other municipal officials in administering elections in which  
9 one hundred per cent of voters participate, and (6) state and municipal  
10 budgetary resources that may be required to achieve such one hundred  
11 per cent voter participation goal.

12 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 13 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 14 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 15 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
16 Representatives;
- 17 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 18 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
19 Representatives;
- 20 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 21 (7) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 22 (8) Two appointed by the Governor.
- 23 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
24 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
25 of the General Assembly.
- 26 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
27 than August 1, 2026. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing  
28 authority.
- 29 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
30 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
31 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
32 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than  
33 September 1, 2026.
- 34 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
35 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections  
36 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 37 (g) Not later than February 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report  
38 on its findings and recommendations, including potential legislation to  
39 appropriate funds or provide other resources to municipalities for the

40 purposes of increasing voter participation, to the joint standing  
 41 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 42 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
 43 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
 44 submits such report or February 1, 2027, whichever is later.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Subject to the provisions of title 9  
 46 of the general statutes and section 7-192a of the general statutes, any  
 47 municipality may, within existing resources, establish a pilot program  
 48 to promote the goal of achieving one hundred per cent voter  
 49 participation in such municipality. Such pilot program may include  
 50 efforts to enhance civic engagement, including, but not limited to, the  
 51 development and conduct of a voter outreach and education campaign  
 52 within such municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>	<b>FY 28 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill empowers municipalities to create a pilot program to achieve 100% voter participation, resulting in a potential cost to municipalities beginning in FY 27. The exact cost will depend on the number of municipalities that choose to establish a pilot program under the legislation and the components of the pilot programs.

The bill additionally establishes a task force to study a variety of topics related to increasing voter participation, which has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities, as the task force has sufficient expertise to meet the bill's requirements.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to the number of municipalities that establish pilot programs.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 395*****AN ACT STUDYING EFFORTS TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PILOT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE SUCH EFFORTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a nine-member task force to study ways to achieve 100% voter participation and enhance civic engagement, and assess administrative and financial barriers to reach these goals. By February 1, 2027, the task force must submit a report to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee on its findings and recommendations, including any potential legislation to direct resources or funds to municipalities to increase voter participation. The task force terminates on the date it submits its report or February 1, 2027, whichever is later.

The bill also allows municipalities, within existing resources, to establish a pilot program to promote the goal of achieving 100% voter participation. The program may include efforts to enhance civic engagement, such as voter outreach and education campaigns. The bill specifies that these pilot programs are subject to the state's election laws and municipal restrictions on diverging from certain state election policies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**VOTER PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE**

The task force must study (1) efforts to achieve, by January 1, 2030, 100% voter participation in the state, and potential implementation options; (2) ways to generally enhance civic engagement; (3) the experiences of jurisdictions that require citizens to vote; (4) municipal officials' needs in administering elections with 100% participation; and

(5) needed budgetary resources to achieve 100% participation.

The task force members include the secretary of the state, or her designee, and eight members appointed as follows:

1. two by the governor; and
2. one each by the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders of each chamber.

Members appointed by the legislative leaders may be legislators. The bill requires (1) initial appointments to be made by August 1, 2026, and (2) the first meeting to be held by September 1, 2026. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons, who must schedule the first meeting. The GAE Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 6    (03/20/2026)