

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-459

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CIRCULATION OF
PRIMARY AND NOMINATING PETITIONS AND DISTRIBUTION
OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill (1) prohibits certain individuals from circulating nominating petitions and requires a background check for circulators, (2) limits the distribution of absentee ballots for others, and (3) prohibits the mailing of unsolicited absentee ballots. The bill's background check requirement results in a cost to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) and various municipalities beginning in FY 27.

The bill requires that SOTS, a municipal registrar of voters, or a town clerk order a background check for each circulator. Different officials

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

must order the background check for circulators depending on the type of election for which the circulator is petitioning, although one portion of the bill (Section 3) indicates that either the town clerk or SOTS must order the background check for any circulator. The exact cost of the background checks will depend on the number of applicable circulators. A basic national background check is estimated to cost \$20 to \$100 per report, depending on the depth of the search.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to inflation, and the number of circulators subject to a background check under the bill's provisions.