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Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 158 State Board of Elections - Contracts and Invoices - Requirements (Kagan) EMERGENCY BILL

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: January 26, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 158 requires the State Board of Elections to review and vote on each contract with a value of \$50,000 or more; requires the State Administrator of Elections to report contracts, contract renewals, and change orders to the State Board; reports to the Board of Public Works may not itemize funding as “special funds;” and increases costs to the State for all election-related goods and services mandated by the State Board.

EXPLANATION: While the bill purports to codify an uncoded section in law, the legislation shifts to the State 50% of the responsibility for the MDVOTERS voter registration system and on-demand ballot printer warranties, which are currently paid 100% by the counties.

The increased aggregate cost for the State’s 50% share, as required by the legislation, is approximately \$3.65 million.

In September 2021, the State agreed to assume 50% of the cost of poll book-related expenses, including printers, licenses, and equipment. This recent action alleviated the counties of election costs for which they were previously 100% responsible – the benefit to the counties is \$3 million in FY 2022 and \$4.3 million in FY 2023.

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