

SB 103-FN-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

03/13/2025 0741s
7Jan2026... 2938h

2025 SESSION

25-0557
08/09

SENATE BILL ***103-FN-LOCAL***

AN ACT relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns and cities during a general election which includes the election for the office of President of the United States.

SPONSORS: Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Rep. Berry, Hills. 44; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires towns and cities to provide at least one polling location for every 15,000 registered voters in that town or city for general elections that include an election for President of the United States.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns and cities during a general election which includes the election for the office of President of the United States.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Presidential Elections; Polling Places. Amend RSA 658 by inserting after section
2 11 the following new section:

3 658:11-a Minimum Number of Polling Places; Presidential Elections.

4 I. In any general election for the office of President of the United States, each town or city
5 shall provide no fewer than one polling location for every 15,000 registered voters as reflected on the
6 checklist as of January 1 of the election year.

7 II. A town or city seeking to operate a single polling location serving more than 15,000
8 registered voters shall submit a plan to the secretary of state and the attorney general for joint
9 approval. The plan shall address, at a minimum, the following considerations:

10 (a) Anticipated traffic flow to and from the polling site.

11 (b) Availability of law enforcement officers or contracted personnel for traffic
12 management.

13 (c) Number of parking spaces reasonably accessible to voters.

14 (d) Number of poll books and assigned election workers to assist with voter check-in.

15 (e) Availability and use of electronic poll books.

16 (f) Number of ballot-counting devices in operation.

17 (g) Number of registration stations and election officials available for same-day
18 registrants.

19 (h) Any other factors identified by the secretary of state and the attorney general as
20 necessary to ensure efficient voting and minimize delays.

21 III. The secretary of state and the attorney general may request supplemental information
22 as part of the review process and may condition approval on specific measures to be in place on
23 election day.

24 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 180 days after its passage.

**SB 103-FN-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2025-2938h)**

AN ACT relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns and cities during a general election which includes the election for the office of President of the United States.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
County Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable Increase more than \$10,000 to \$100,000 less

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires towns and cities to have at least one polling place per every 15,000 registered voters unless the town or city has received approval from the Secretary of State for fewer locations.

The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) states that any municipality unable to obtain approval from the Secretary of State for fewer polling locations may experience an increase in local expenditures anticipated to range from more than \$10,000 to less than \$100,000, depending on the costs associated with setting up and staffing additional locations.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) states that the fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminable because it depends on how many municipalities will have more than 15,000 registered voters for the 2028 general election in which the office of president of the United States is decided would request approval to accommodate said voters at a single polling site. Review of the requests would be done by the Election Law Unit in the DOJ which has limited resources, however the unit is likely to be able to manage additional duties. If all affected municipalities were to request approval the unit would likely need two additional employees at an estimated total cost of \$223,000 beginning in FY 2028.

The Department of State indicates this bill will have no impact on the Secretary of State.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State, Department of Justice, and New Hampshire Municipal Association