

HB 67-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0051

07/08

HOUSE BILL **67-FN-A**

AN ACT relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Paige, Rock. 11; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill directs cities and towns to enable access to voting for individuals with disabilities during elections.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems.

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

1 1 Accessible Voting Systems. Amend RSA 659:20-b to read as follows:

2 659:20-b Accessible Voting Systems.

3 I. Every city, every town, and every school district which has adopted an official ballot
4 system shall:

5 (a) Ensure that each polling place has at least one accessible voting system.

6 (b) Enter into [~~a pilot~~] **an** agreement with the secretary of state for the use of accessible
7 voting systems in local elections.

8 (c) Bear the cost of programming for the city, town, or school district election with the
9 vendor chosen and contracted with by the secretary of state, including any transfer of the system to
10 and from the vendor.

11 (d) Store and maintain the accessible voting system or systems in a secure manner
12 following election security guidance issued by the secretary of state.

13 II. The secretary of state shall:

14 (a) Enter into [~~a pilot program~~] **an** agreement with cities and towns and provide
15 accessible voting systems for use in city, town, and school elections.

16 (b) Provide guidance for programming the local ballots onto the accessible voting
17 systems.

18 (c) Provide security guidance for the local storage and maintenance of the accessible
19 voting system or systems used for city, town, and school district elections.

20 2 Repeal. 2024, 123:4, relative to a pilot agreement providing accessible voting systems for use
21 in elections, is repealed.

22 3 Appropriation; Secretary of State. There is hereby appropriated to the secretary of state the
23 sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the election fund established in RSA 5:6-d for the fiscal year
24 ending June 30, 2025 for the purpose of funding accessible voting systems pursuant to RSA 659:20-b.
25 The secretary shall expend any available federal funds prior to the use of this sum for the purchase
26 of tablets and other equipment necessary for compliance with this act. The governor is authorized to
27 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

28 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

**HB 67-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$1,240,000 to \$2,170,000	\$110,000 to \$450,000	\$110,000 to \$450,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Election Fund and General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			

*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	\$248,000 to \$744,000+	\$248,000 to \$744,000+	\$248,000 to \$744,000+

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires cities and towns to enter into an agreement versus a pilot agreement with the Secretary of State for the use of accessible voting systems in local elections. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Election Fund for the fiscal year ending June, 30, 2025 to help fund the accessible voting systems with the exception that the Secretary of State will expend any available Federal Funds prior to the use of the \$100,000 appropriation for the purchase of tablets and other equipment necessary for compliance with this act.

The Secretary of State indicates this bill will give Accessible Voting Systems (AVSs) to cities and towns for their use in local elections. The city or town will securely store the AVSs, and they will no longer be stored or programmed by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will cover the costs for programming state and federal elections.

The Secretary of State estimates the State and local fiscal impact below with the assumption the replacement AVS would cost between \$4,000 to \$7,000 per a town/city ward.

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Replacement AVSs	\$1,240,000 to \$2,170,000	\$0	\$0
Annual License Fees	\$0	\$60,000 to \$100,000	\$60,000 to \$100,000
Onsite Annual Support	\$0	\$50,000 to \$200,000	\$50,000 to \$200,000
State and Federal Election Programming Fees	\$0	\$0 to \$150,000	\$0 to \$150,000
TOTAL	\$1,240,000 to \$2,170,000	\$110,000 to \$450,000	\$110,000 to \$450,000

The programming fees for Local Elections is approximately \$800 per ballot for each town/city ward ($\$800 \times 310 = \$248,000$). This is cost per ballot. If a town has a town ballot and two school ballots this cost multiplies by three ($\$248,000 \times 3 = \$744,000$). These costs do not included any additional expenses municipalities may have for securely storing the AVSs.

Lastly, the Secretary of State notes this bill prohibits the use of the \$100,000 General Fund appropriation deposited into the Election Fund until all available Federal Funds are fully expended. However, RSA 5:6-d prevents the complete depletion of the Election Fund, which effectively restricts the use of the \$100,000 appropriation. Furthermore, depending on the balance of the Election Fund at the time of purchasing the new AVSs, General Funds may be required to cover any expenses that exceed the remaining Election Fund resources.

It is assumed any fiscal impact for expenditures would occur after FY 2025.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Secretary of State