

HB 711-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0624

11/08

HOUSE BILL ***711-FN***

AN ACT relative to voting machine contractors.

SPONSORS: Rep. Bernardy, Rock. 36

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill requires contractors who repair electronic ballot counting devices to register with the secretary of state and the attorney general. It also requires designated municipal officials to record a contractor's information prior to any repairs.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

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

1 1 New Section; Electronic Ballot Counting Device Repair Contractors. Amend RSA 656 by
2 inserting after section 42 the following new section:

3 656:42-a Electronic Ballot Counting Device Repair Contractors.

4 I. A contractor who repairs an electronic ballot counting device shall, prior to making any
5 repair, register with the secretary of state and the attorney general in a manner prescribed by each,
6 and obtain a registration number. In order to obtain a registration number, the contractor shall
7 submit proof to the secretary of state and the attorney general that they are bonded and insured.

8 II. Prior to accessing the device, a contractor shall present to a designated municipal official
9 a photographic identification card bearing their full name, their company's name, and their
10 registration number. The official shall record the information in the device log. The contractor shall
11 visibly display the identification at all times while in the vicinity of the device.

12 III. The secretary of state shall develop and provide training to appropriate municipal
13 officials regarding the verification and recording of a repair contractor's identity and credentials.

14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 711-FN- FISCAL NOTE
 AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to voting machine contractors.

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	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	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

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires contractors who repair electronic ballot counting devices to register with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General as well as requiring designated municipal officials to record a contractor's information prior to any repairs.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) indicates that the bill does not obligate the Department to enforce compliance with registration, bonding, and insurance requirements, nor does it establish any enforcement mechanisms like civil or criminal penalties. Consequently, it is unclear what additional workload the DOJ's Election Law Unit would face. As a result, the estimated expenditure increase is indeterminable but currently expected to be under \$10,000 to manage the additional process. However, this amount would rise if enforcement duties were included.

The Department of State indicates that this bill could have no fiscal impact or it could have a significant fiscal impact as the bill is unclear on the definitions of contractor and bond therefore creating an indeterminable fiscal impact.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Justice and Department of State