

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Voting Integrity and Voter Access Account

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Overview

The bill creates an account to receive federal funds given to the state under the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252. Funds can be used for a variety of election purposes, including training election officials, educating voters, and buying voting systems. The account would also contain state funds that may be appropriated to match some of the federal money.

Section

1 Voting integrity and voter access account.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Creates a voting integrity and voter access account in the state treasury. Requires federal funds received under P.L. 107-252 to be deposited in the account. Requires crediting to this account: state funds appropriated to satisfy the five percent match requirement that applies to some of the federal funds.

Subd. 2. Appropriation. Appropriates to the secretary of state money in the account to be used for election administration purposes that are consistent with P.L. 107-252 and the state plan certified by the governor pursuant to that act. Allows money to carry over from one fiscal year to another.

Subd. 3. Account purposes. Requires money in the account to be used in a manner consistent with the maintenance of effort requirements of P.L. 107-252 (at least the base level of expenditures the state made in FY 2000).

Subd. 4. Reports. Requires the secretary of state to send a copy of the report required by section 258 of the federal law to the chairs of legislative finance committees having jurisdiction over the secretary of state's budget.

Subd. 5. Legislature not bound. Provides that receipt of federal funds under this section does not bind the legislature to make future appropriations.

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Effective date. Section 1 is effective retroactively to the full extent permitted by P.L. 107-252.