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## Overview

This bill establishes a grant program to support the purchase of new voting equipment by local units of government. The amount of a grant may be no more than 50 percent of the total cost of the equipment. A total appropriation of \$14,000,000 is provided for the grants.

### Section

**1** **Voting equipment grant account.** Establishes a voting equipment grant program, administered by the secretary of state to support the purchase of new voting equipment by local units of government. The procedures for applying and being awarded a grant are contained in this section.

**Subd. 1. Voting equipment grant account.** Establishes the new account in the special revenue fund.

**Subd. 2. Authorized equipment.** Lists the type of voting equipment that are eligible for grant support. These include an electronic voting system, such as a precinct ballot counter; assistive voting technology, frequently referred to as the "AutoMark"; an electronic roster; and other equipment or technology approved by the secretary of state. Only purchases or leases of equipment entered on or after July 1, 2017 are eligible.

**Subd. 3. Application.** Provides a detailed list of information that must be included in an application for a grant. This subdivision also requires the secretary of state to establish a deadline for submission of applications, a procedure for awarding and distributing grants, and a process for verifying proper use of grant funds.

**Section**

**Subd. 4. Amount of grant.** Caps the amount of a grant at no more than 50 percent of the total equipment cost, and limits the secretary of state's review of an application to only that information submitted on the application.

**Subd. 5. Report to legislature.** Requires annual reports to the legislature on the grants awarded under this section.

**2 Voting equipment grant account; appropriation.** Appropriates \$14 million in fiscal year 2018 for purposes of making voting equipment grants.

**3 Repealer.** Repeals an existing voting equipment grant structure. This structure was used to distribute federal funds provided under the Help America Vote Act to local units of government and was administered by the commissioner of administration.