

Subject Help America Vote Act funding

Authors Freiberg

Analyst Matt Gehring

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Summary

This bill provides a permanent, statutory appropriation of money in the state's Help America Vote Act (HAVA) account to the secretary of state, to be used for purposes authorized by federal law. Use of the funds would be subject to legislative review through the Legislative Advisory Committee, consistent with a process used for review of other federal funds received by the state.

The HAVA account was established in 2003 to receive and hold funds provided by the federal government for certain election purposes. Most recently, funds were made available for election security upgrades, on the condition that the state match a portion of the amount (a five percent match was required to access funds appropriated in 2018; a 20 percent match is required to access funds appropriated in late 2019).

Under current law, HAVA funds must be separately appropriated to the secretary of state by the legislature before they may be spent. This bill would allow the secretary of state access to the funds without the need for legislative action. Restrictions on how the funds may be used would remain unchanged.

The change would apply to all funds in the account, including amounts that are in the account as of the time the bill is enacted.