

Subject Secretary of state; appropriations

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Overview

This bill appropriates money to the secretary of state for purposes of paying court-ordered attorney's fees that resulted from the 2020 redistricting cycle. It also provides a transfer of funds to the state's Help America Vote Act (HAVA) account for the purpose of meeting the state match requirements attached to federal HAVA funds newly allocated in fiscal year (FY) 2022 and FY 2023. The bill further provides a permanent statutory appropriation of amounts in the HAVA account to the secretary of state, eliminating an existing requirement of a direct legislative appropriation each time funds are added to the account.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Appropriation.
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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. 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.

2	Appropriation; secretary of state; court ordered attorney fees.
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Appropriates funds to the secretary of state to pay court-ordered attorney's fees and costs to several plaintiff groups involved in litigation that ultimately led to the

Section	Description
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creation of Minnesota’s Special Redistricting Panel in 2021, and the set of congressional and legislative district boundaries ordered by that panel in early 2022.

Because the litigation process included a decision by the court that Minnesota’s then-existing districts were unconstitutional, the plaintiffs in the case are entitled by law to receive an award for attorney’s fees paid by the state.

3 Appropriation; secretary of state; Help America Vote Act state matching funds.

Transfers money from the general fund to the Help America Vote Act account for the purpose of meeting a state match requirement to access available HAVA funds. In both 2022 and 2023, Congress made additional HAVA funds available to each state for activities related to election security (Minnesota was allocated \$1,151,122 in each of FY 2022 and 2023). These allocations require a match of 20 percent in order for the state to have full access to the funds.



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