



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 199

LR 108(01)

An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photograph Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Cebra of Naples

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Potential current biennium cost increase - Highway Fund

Potential current biennium cost increase - Federal Expenditures Funds

Potential current biennium revenue decrease - Highway Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation requires voters to provide proof of identity with photograph identification documentation when voting. If the state does not provide free identification cards, there would be no cost to implement this bill. However, at least one state has had to provide free identification to its citizens to avoid constitutional issues related to barriers to the right to vote. Assuming that 10% of registered voters do not currently have either a driver's license or identification card, that would equal 97,000 people. The state's provision of such identification would be an annual General Fund cost of \$256,000 to manufacture additional identification cards. There would also be a reduction in Highway Fund revenue of \$69,000 per year to eliminate the fees currently collected on identification cards. Costs associated with education and training could be covered by federal Help America Vote Act funds.