



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1646

LR 2379(03)

An Act To Bring Maine's Ranked-choice Voting Law into Constitutional Compliance

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Unbudgeted savings on delay or repeal - General Fund

Unbudgeted savings on delay or repeal - Highway Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Costs related to ranked-choice voting were estimated in the fiscal note for LD 1557 of the 127th Legislature, which was introduced as Initiated Bill 2 in response to a successful citizen initiated petition drive. As LD 1557 was indefinitely postponed, there was no opportunity to put funding for the Secretary of State (SOS) or the Department of Public Safety (DPS) into that bill. Subsequent approval by the voters in November of 2016 meant any funding would have to wait for implementing legislation. Delaying implementation of ranked-choice voting until elections held after December 1, 2021 will eliminate any funding that would have been required by the SOS and the DPS in the current biennium. As no funding has ever been budgeted, no savings will be booked on delay.

Additional costs to the Department of Secretary of State associated with conducting an evaluation and recommending legislation for the administration of ranked-choice voting can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Any appropriations and allocations associated with implementing ranked-choice voting would need to be included within that subsequent legislation. If the Constitution of Maine is not amended, the laws governing ranked-choice voting are repealed and no funding will be required.