

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ROS

L.D. 600

Date: 5/12/25

(Filing No. H-145)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 368, L.D. 600, "An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Elections"

Amend the bill in section 2 in the 3rd indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 8 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "declared" and inserting the following: "apparent"

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the term "declared winner" with the term "apparent winner" to identify a candidate who is not eligible to request a recount.

The preliminary fiscal impact statement identified a potential unfunded state mandate in the requirements that municipal clerks automatically initiate recounts in the case of tie votes when secret ballots are used for elections of town officials or for municipal referenda elections at town meetings.

The committee reviewed the preliminary fiscal impact statement and determined that because the likelihood of tie votes occurring in municipalities where secret ballots are used for elections of town officials or for municipal referenda elections at town meetings would be so infrequent the requirement likely will not have significant costs and does not require an expansion or modification of activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures. Additionally, organizations representing municipal interests expressed support for the bill, noting that it streamlined the process, and indicated that the bill's changes may be able to, in certain situations, save municipalities costs associated with having to conduct a run-off election.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 600

LR 1204(02)

An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Elections

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-145)

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential Mandate Removed - Committee exception

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

In the Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement (PFIS) for this bill, it was identified as a Potential State Mandate - Unfunded. The committee reviewed the PFIS and determined that because the likelihood of tie votes occurring in municipalities where secret ballots are used for elections of town officials or for municipal referenda elections at town meetings would be so infrequent the requirement likely will not have significant costs, and that this bill was not a mandate. As the committee included this exception in the summary of the committee amendment, the Potential State Mandate - Unfunded language was removed from the fiscal note for the committee amendment.

Any additional costs to the Department of Secretary of State associated with this legislation are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.