



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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October 13, 2009

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Government Accountability Board: Section 13.10 Request to Provide Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Match Funding -- Agenda Item IV

REQUEST

In order to provide required state match funding of 5% for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 and 2009 HAVA award funding totaling \$3,947,062 FED, the Government Accountability Board (GAB) requests a one-time: (a) transfer of \$207,800 GPR in 2009-10, from its general program operations appropriation to its election administration transfer appropriation; and (b) associated increase in expenditure authority of \$207,800 SEG in 2009-10 to its election administration appropriation. The appropriation language of the GPR election administration transfer appropriation would authorize the Board to transfer the \$207,800 GPR to the SEG election administration appropriation.

BACKGROUND

In order to be eligible for federal HAVA Title II payments, Wisconsin is required to develop a state election administration plan and provide a 5% state match. The initial five-year state election administration plan approved by the Joint Committee on Finance under s. 5.05(10) of the statutes was approved on April 14, 2005. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission is requiring a new five-year plan before Wisconsin can receive a FFY 2008 requirement payment totaling \$2,111,219 FED and a FFY 2009 requirement payment totaling \$1,835,843 FED. Under Agenda Item III, the Board requests that the Committee approve its new five-year state election administration plan.

ANALYSIS

In addition to an approved five-year state election administration plan, the Board indicates that the federal government is requiring that the necessary 5% in state match funding be deposited to the election administration fund that the state initially created under 2003 Wisconsin Act 266. Under the s. 13.10 item before the Committee, the Board is requesting that the Committee authorize the one-time transfer of \$207,800 GPR in 2009-10 in base resources to the election administration fund. Authorizing the transfer of this funding to the GPR election administration transfer appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(d)] will permit the Board to further transfer this funding to the election administration fund under the authorizing language of the appropriation.

The base resources that would be transferred under the request have been provided to the Board for maintenance and support costs associated with the hosting of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) on DOA Division of Enterprise Technology hardware. While these base resources would be utilized to provide the required match for HAVA funding under the request, the Board indicates that the funds would continue to be expended for the purpose for which they were originally provided, maintenance and support costs associated with hosting the SVRS.

As approval of this request will permit the state to receive federal HAVA funding totaling \$3,947,062 FED if the state election administration plan is also approved, the Committee may wish to approve this request. On the other hand, if the Committee does not approve the state election administration plan, the Committee may wish to also deny this request at this time.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the request of the Government Accountability Board on a one-time basis to: (a) transfer \$207,800 GPR in 2009-10, from its general program operations appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(a)] to its election administration transfer appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(d)]; and (b) provide associated increased expenditure authority of \$207,800 SEG in 2009-10 to its election administration appropriation [s. 20.511(1)(t)].

2. Deny the request.

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