

Amendment to HB 447-FN

Amend RSA 5-d:6, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. The secretary of state ~~[is authorized to]~~ **shall** accept, budget, and, subject to the limitations of this paragraph, expend monies in the election fund received from any party for the purposes of conducting elections, voter and election official education, the purchase or lease of equipment that complies with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, or with RSA 659:13, V, reimbursing the department of safety for the actual cost of voter identification cards, election law enforcement, enhancing election technology, making election security improvements, and improvements to related information technology, including acquisition and operation of an automated election management system. ***Except as provided in this section, the secretary of state*** ~~[With the exception of federal and state portions of funds associated with the 2018 Election Reform Program, the secretary of state]~~ shall not expend any monies in the election fund unless the balance in the fund following such expenditures shall be at least 12 times the estimated annual cost of maintaining the programs established to comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252. ***The secretary of state shall expend funds in the election fund established in this section and those funds associated with the 2018 Election Reform Program and other funds received by the state under RSA 5:6-d, II to assist in an equitable manner the purchase of equipment by towns and cities for the use of conducting elections and improving election security through the purchase of technology, including ballot counting devices, electronic poll books, and dedicated laptops to be used to access the election information system established by the secretary of state. The funds used pursuant to this paragraph shall be administered, regulated, and maintained by the secretary of state and shall be subject to the following restrictions:***

(a) ***The principal amount of the election funds spent shall not exceed \$3,000,000.***

(b) ***The amount awarded to each town and city shall be no more than one-half of the estimated cost of the requested technology. Each town and city shall return any excess funds to the secretary of state within 6 months of the purchase of the requested technology by the town or city.***

(c) ***The authority to disburse funds under this paragraph shall terminate upon the disbursement of \$3,000,000 or December 31, 2027, whichever occurs first. Any funds not disbursed pursuant to this paragraph shall be returned to the election fund established in RSA 5:6-d, I by January 31, 2028.***