Fiscal Estimate - 2003 Session

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LRB	Number	03-3419/1		Introd	uction Numb	er A	B-601				
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State funding for compliance with federal Help America Vote Act											
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ELB/ Kevin Kennedy (608) 266-8005 Kevir				vin Kennedy	n Kennedy (608) 266-8005						

Fiscal Estimate Narratives ELB 10/17/2003

LRB Number 03-3419/1	Introduction Number AB-601	Estimate Type	Original					
Subject								
State funding for compliance with federal Help America Vote Act								

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation provides the additional funding necessary for the state to meet the 5% spending match in order to receive the initial federal funds that have been appropriated by Congress in FFY 3 to Wisconsin to meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Before the state can receive the estimated \$15.39 million in federal funds, the Governor, in consultation with the Executive Director of the State Elections Board, must certify that the state has appropriated an amount equal to 5% of the spending to meet the requirements of HAVA.

The state must appropriate \$810,000 to meet the 5% spending match. The state appropriated \$200,000 in December 2002 for a study on the design and implementation of a statewide voter registration system, one of the requirements of HAVA. An additional \$133,000 was set aside by the legislature as part of the 2003-2005 budget process. This leaves \$477,000 that is necessary to meet the spending match.

Without the state spending match, Wisconsin will be required to implement the mandates of HAVA without the assistance of federal funds.

Congress is poised to appropriate additional funding in FFY 4 for the states to meet HAVA requirements. This funding will require an additional 5% state spending match. The amount available from the federal government and the required state spending match will not be known until Congress completes action on its spending bills for FFY 4.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The appropriation will enable the state to begin to implement the requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The deadlines for meeting the requirements for a statewide voter registration system and accessible voting equipment is January 1, 2006.