



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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March 8, 2004

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 932: Authority for the Joint Committee on Finance to Transfer GPR Appropriations to Match Federal Funds Provided by the Help America Vote Act

Assembly Bill 932 was introduced on March 4, 2005, and was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

### BACKGROUND

*Help America Vote Act Federal Funding.* On October 29, 2002, the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was signed into law. HAVA establishes a series of new mandates applicable to the states, including: (1) creation of an official centralized computerized statewide voter registration list system; and (2) requirements that all polling stations be equipped with voting systems accessible to individuals with disabilities, including non-visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired.

HAVA also provides grant funding (primarily in Titles I and II of the Act) for state election administration activities undertaken to meet the requirements of the new legislation. During 2002-03, Wisconsin received \$7,002,900 FED in Title I funds, which require no state match. It is estimated that the state will be eligible to receive \$15,411,000 FED in Title II HAVA funds in 2003-04, subject to a required 5% state match of \$810,600. Of this required match amount, \$810,000 GPR has been provided for or reserved through the following actions: (1) \$200,000 GPR previously expended to develop an implementation plan for the required statewide voter registration system under HAVA has been designated as part of the state match; (2) provisions of 2003 Wisconsin Act 33 (the 2003-05 biennial budget act) reserved \$133,000 GPR in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation for possible transfer to the Elections Board to meet the match requirement; and (3) provisions of Enrolled Assembly Bill 601 would reserve an additional

\$477,000 GPR in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation for possible transfer to the Elections Board to meet the match requirement.

The Elections Board now estimates that the state will be eligible to receive an additional \$28,400,000 FED, requiring a further state match of \$1,496,000 GPR.

*Authority of the Joint Committee on Finance to Supplement Agency Appropriations.* Under s. 13.101 of the statutes, the Joint Committee on Finance may provide a GPR supplement to an agency from: (1) the Committee's appropriation under s. 20.865(4)(a); or (2) a transfer from another budgeted appropriation other than a sum sufficient appropriation. A supplement may be made if the Committee finds that:

- "1. An emergency exists;
2. No funds are available for such purposes; and
3. The purposes for which a supplemental appropriation is requested have been authorized or directed by the Legislature."

## **SUMMARY OF BILL**

Assembly Bill 932 would direct the Elections Board and the Department of Administration (DOA) to request that the Joint Committee on Finance provide a supplement to the Election Board's new election administration transfer appropriation (created under Enrolled Assembly Bill 601) from any GPR-funded annual or biennial appropriation for the purpose of capturing the maximum amount of federal funding under HAVA during the 2003-05 biennium. The total amount of the supplement could not exceed \$1,496,000 GPR. AB 932 would direct DOA to identify specific GPR-funded sources from which the transfers to the Board's election administration transfer appropriation would be made. The Committee would then be authorized to make the appropriation transfers in response to the request. In addition, the Committee would specifically be authorized to: (1) make transfers from annual or biennial GPR-funded appropriations other than those identified in the request; and (2) transfer amounts that are different from the amounts recommended in the request.

## **FISCAL EFFECT**

Under AB 932, a maximum supplementation of \$1,496,000 GPR could be provided to the Elections Board's election administration transfer appropriation. The total amount of the supplement would be provided through offsetting transfers from one or more GPR-funded annual or biennial appropriation accounts identified by DOA or by the Joint Committee on Finance. Consequently, there would be no net fiscal change under the bill.

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