



# DOAA

Georgia Department  
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

March 13, 2023

Honorable Max Burns  
Chairman, Senate Ethics Committee  
327-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
Senate Bill 122 (LC 47 2147)

Dear Chairman Burns:

The bill modifies a number of election administration procedures, including changing eligibility requirements for independent review board members, limiting access to securely stored ballots, and requiring retention of certain documents. The bill also requires that all election documents be subject to electronic inspection and that the electronic documents are high resolution images of no less than 300 pixels per inch (dpi).

While compliance with the bill's provisions falls upon the election superintendents at the county and municipal level, the state has provided some equipment for election administration. This fiscal note is limited to the estimated cost to the state if it provides the hardware and storage space needed for the electronic documents. No additional state funding would be required if local governments acquire all of the required items.

The Secretary of State's office indicated that scanning and preserving election documents would require 1,500 high-speed scanners (\$7,200 each) and 1,500 laptops (\$500 each) at a cost of approximately \$11.6 million. Each county would need multiple scanners to scan all documents within the time allotted by statute, and each new scanner would need its own dedicated laptop to transfer the files to the cloud. Scanners currently used by local election offices are certified by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) at 200 dpi. The Secretary of State's Office also indicated there is at least one scanner in each county capable of producing 300 dpi images, but it is unclear whether changes to these scanners' current settings would invalidate their EAC certification. If further investigation determines that these scanners could remain certified at 300 dpi, this could reduce the number of new scanners and laptops needed by at least 159 each and reduce the estimated cost by at least \$1.2 million.

Storage for approximately 25 million documents that would be maintained in a two-year period was estimated at four to nine terabytes and, depending on the method of storage, \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/lw