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Office of Research
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S.B. 293
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 293's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Gavarone and Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jared Cape, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- Under the bill, more absent voter's ballots may arrive after close-of-polls deadline to be counted and therefore would not be processed by boards of elections staff. If that is the case, it may lead to some staff cost savings for boards of elections.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires most absent voter's ballots to be delivered to the appropriate board of elections, in person or by mail, by the close of the polls on Election Day in order to be counted. However, the bill maintains the current law return deadline of four days after Election Day for uniformed services and overseas absent voter's (UOCAVA) ballots. Under current law, all absent voter's ballots delivered to the board in person must meet that deadline. However, absent voter's ballots that are returned by mail are still counted if they arrive at the board of elections by the fourth day after Election Day. As a result of the new close-of-polls deadline under the bill, fewer absent voter's ballots may need to be processed. If so, there might be some minimal savings in staffing costs for boards of elections. As a point of reference, during the November 2024 election, of the 803,253 total absent voter's ballots returned by mail, 9,523 (1.2%) arrived by mail during the four days after Election Day.