

Subject Elections; HAVA cybersecurity funding

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Overview

In March 2018, the federal government enacted an appropriations law that included a total of \$380 million designated for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grants to support state efforts to secure elections infrastructure against cybersecurity threats. Each state was allocated a share of the grant money, on the condition that the state match 5 percent of the grant funds.

A total of \$6,595,610 was designated for a grant to Minnesota. The 5 percent state match requirement is \$329,781. The grant is available in the state's HAVA account, but current state law prohibits the secretary of state from using the funds unless they are directly appropriated by the legislature.

This bill appropriates the federal funds to the secretary of state (\$167,000 in state election security expenditures from fiscal years 2018 and 2019 are retroactively credited toward the match). The bill then authorizes the secretary of state to spend the federal funds for a list of eligible activities outlined in the bill.

The funds are made available to the secretary of state immediately, and remain available until March 23, 2023.