

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 retroactively credits \$110,000 in state election security expenditures from fiscal year 2018 toward the match. The bill then permits the secretary of state to access \$1,534,000 in the HAVA account for modernizing, securing, and updating the statewide voter registration system and for cybersecurity upgrades as authorized by federal law.

The funds are made available to the secretary of state beginning in fiscal year 2020, and remain available until June 30, 2023.

The language in this bill reflects the appropriation and language proposed in the omnibus supplemental budget bill vetoed by Governor Dayton in 2018 (SF 3656, 3rd Engrossment, Article 1, section 4), with fiscal year updates.