

Elections Reform Under the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) **FY2004 Request: \$8,762,211**
Reference No: AMD 38524

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Transitional
Category: General Government
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Laura Glaiser
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2644
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2003 - 07/01/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Improve the administration of elections in accordance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Funding:	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Total
ElectionFd	\$8,762,211						\$8,762,211
Total:	\$8,762,211	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,762,211

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

There has been no prior funding for this project.

Project Description/Justification:

In October of 2002, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act of 2002. After much deliberation, agreements were reached to determine what the appropriation amounts will be for funding requirements of the new election reform bill. There will be two types of funding sources available through appropriations to assist the State in meeting these federal mandates.

Title II monies or “requirements payments” are available to states that meet certain mandates of HAVA. Most noteworthy is the development of a State Plan, which the Division has drafted with the state Plan Committee and will be available for public comment before being submitted to the Federal Election Administration Commission. Title II monies can only be spent for mandates in Title III (examples: accessible voting units at every polling place, statewide voter registration system, training of election workers and staff, and accessibility issues) and require that a state match “requirements payments” with a 5% state contribution.

Alaska is expected to receive \$4,150,000, in FY ‘04, which will require a match of \$218,300. HAVA requires each state to establish an Election Fund. A separate budget amendment capitalizes this fund with the HAVA funds and \$105,200 of general fund match. The remaining state match will be addressed in the state fiscal year 2005 budget.

Title I monies are expected to be deposited before the end of April, 2003. Alaska qualifies for the "minimum payment" of \$5 million due to its relatively small voting age population in comparison to other states. These "one time" monies do not require a state match, however. These funds will be used for one or more of the following activities as required in HAVA:

- (A) Complying with the requirements of Title III.
- (B) Improving the administration of elections for Federal Office
- (C) Educating voters concerning voting procedures, voting rights, and voting technology
- (D) Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers
- (E) Improving, acquiring, leasing, modifying, or replacing voting systems and technology and methods for casting and counting votes.
- (F) Improving the accessibility and quantity of polling places, including providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, providing non-visual access for individuals with visual impairments, and providing assistance to Native Americans, Alaska Native citizens, and to individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.
- (G) Establishing toll-free telephone hotlines that voters may use to report possible voting fraud and voting rights violations, to obtain general election information on their own voter registration status, specific polling place locations, and other relevant information.

The Federal Election Administration Commission will make requirements payments (Title II monies) each year in an amount determined under section 252 to each state that meets the conditions described in section 253 for the year. Funds will be available to states under this bill through federal fiscal year 2005.