150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 346**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Longhurst**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 15 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO VOTING BY MAIL FOR THE 2020 NON-PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, GENERAL, AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature of the Governor.

2. This Act requires the State Elections Commission to provide voting by mail for the 2020 non-presidential primary, general elections and special elections, due to the emergency caused by COVID-19. The Commission will mail an application to receive a voting by mail ballot to every qualified, duly registered elector at the address appearing on elector's voter registration to allow the choice for voting by mail.

3. Upon implementation of this Act, the Delaware Department of Elections ("the Department") estimates that 50% of the total votes cast would be by mail due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. With 94,000 votes cast in the 2016 primary election, the Department estimates there will be approximately 47,000 votes cast by mail in the September 2020 non-presidential primary election. With 441,590 votes cast in the 2016 general election, the Department estimates there will be approximately 221,000 votes cast by mail in the November 2020 general election.

4. Per the Department, printing, processing, and postage for mail ballots is $3.00 per ballot. Additional costs including casual/seasonal staff and equipment necessary to process those ballots upon return are estimated at approximately $25,000 for Fiscal Year 2021.

5. Federal funds through the CARES Act will likely alleviate the need for state funds to implement the provisions of this Act. These Federal funds must be spent on activities related to the pandemic in 2020 federal elections and must be committed by the end of Calendar Year 2021.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2021:	$829,000
Fiscal Year 2022:	$0
Fiscal Year 2023:	$0

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