HOUSE BILL NO. 5517

November 03, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Liberati, Manoogian, Garza, Koleszar, Puri, Breen, Kuppa, Morse, Lasinski, Hope, Stone, Cynthia Johnson, Sabo, Steckloff, Haadsma, Scott, Cavanagh, Sowerby, Hood, Tate, Young, Yancey and Anthony and referred to the Committee on Elections and Ethics.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled

"Michigan election law,"

(MCL 168.1 to 168.992) by adding section 39.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1   **Sec. 39. (1) Subject to this section, this state shall**

2 **reimburse each county, city, or township for the cost of election**

3 **mail postage incurred by that county, city, or township. To be**

4 **eligible for reimbursement under this section, the county, city, or**

5 **township clerk must include prepaid postage on all absent voter**

1 ballot application return envelopes and all absent voter ballot
2 return envelopes sent by the clerk to electors in that county,
3 city, or township. Reimbursement must be made upon presentation and
4 approval of a verified account of actual costs for election mail
5 postage to the secretary of state. The reimbursement must not
6 exceed the verified account of actual costs of the election mail
7 postage as provided in this section.

8 (2) The legislature shall appropriate from the general fund of
9 this state an amount necessary to implement this section.

10 (3) To obtain reimbursement, a county, city, or township must
11 submit its verified account of actual costs for election mail
12 postage to the secretary of state no later than 90 days after the
13 date of the end of the fiscal year for that county, city, or
14 township. A verified account of actual costs for election mail
15 postage must include a certification or receipt from a United
16 States Postal Service office detailing the cost of postage along
17 with a matching account of all eligible election mail sent by that
18 county, city, or township during the fiscal year of that county,
19 city, or township.

20 (4) This state shall pay or disapprove all or a portion of the
21 verified account no later than 90 days after the date this state
22 receives a verified account of actual costs for election mail
23 postage from a county, city, or township.

24 (5) If this state disapproves all or a portion of a verified
25 account of actual costs for election mail postage under subsection
26 (4), this state shall send a notice of disapproval along with the
27 reasons for the disapproval to the county, city, or township. Upon
28 request of a county, city, or township whose verified account or
29 portion of a verified account was disapproved under this section,

1   this state shall review the disapproved costs with the county,

2   city, or township.

3   (6) As used in this section, "election mail" only includes the

4   following:

5   (a) Voter registration cards.

6   (b) Absent voter ballot applications.

7   (c) Absent voter ballot application return envelopes.

8   (d) Absent voter ballots.

9   (e) Absent voter ballot return envelopes.