

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 281** HLS 25RS 575

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 17, 2025	4:41 PM	Author: WYBLE
Dept./Agy.: Corrections/Department of State		Analyst: Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Prohibited acts at polling places		

ELECTION OFFENSES

EG SEE FISC NOTE LF EX

Provides relative to acts prohibited during early voting or on election day

Present law prohibits individuals from placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used on an election day; provides that whoever violates this provision be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both on a first offense; provides that whoever violates this provision be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both on a second offense.

Proposed law adds wearing campaign apparel or any other form of political campaigning to the prohibition.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures for local governing authorities if a person is convicted of wearing campaign apparel or any other form of political campaigning within 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used on an election day. Proposed law has the effect of expanding the circumstances under which violations of current law can occur.

The exact fiscal impact of this legislation to local governing authorities is indeterminable, since it is not known how many people will be convicted and incarcerated in local facilities, nor the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions as a result of its potential enactment. The maximum imprisonment term at the local level is no more than six months for a first offense and no more than one year for any subsequent offenses.

The Department of State indicates there may be some costs associated with updating notices displayed at polling places but these costs are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within the department's existing operating budget.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in local revenues as a result of convictions of wearing campaign apparel or any other form of political campaigning within 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used on an election day. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation on local revenue is indeterminable because the fines that would be imposed on those convicted (not more than \$500 for a first offense and not more than \$1,000 for subsequent offenses) are optional, and the amount of the fines, if imposed, may vary. The potential revenue will accrue to the local governing authority.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer