



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 342** SLS 26RS 594  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 30, 2026 6:41 PM	<b>Author:</b> BARROW
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Secretary of State/Corrections	
<b>Subject:</b> Voter Protection Act	<b>Analyst:</b> Kimberly Fruge

VOTERS/VOTING OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides for the voter protection act. (8/1/26)

Proposed law provides that no person shall intentionally intimidate, deceive, misinform, or coerce any voter, prospective voter, or voter assistance provider regarding any aspect of registration, voting, or qualifications to vote; provides that violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000, imprisonment for up to six month, or both; violation that involves organized or systematic voter suppression is a felony with enhanced penalties. Proposed law provides that no person shall knowingly or intentionally intimidate, threaten, deceive, coerce, or misinform, any voter, prospective voter, or voter assistance provider regarding (1) eligibility to vote, (2) requirements for registration, (3) polling place location, (4) voting times or dates, or (5) procedures for casting a ballot; provides that violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000, imprisonment for up to six month, or both; violation that involves coordinated, organized, or systematic voter suppression is a felony punishable, with or without hard labor, for not more than 5 years, fined not more than \$10,000, or both. Proposed law provides that the Secretary of State shall develop and provide standardized, accessible voter registration forms, instructions, and outreach materials in multiple languages; extend voter registration deadlines; expand digital voter registration capabilities, with secure online systems and mobile-friendly applications, and publish an annual report on voter roll maintenance, including counts of inactive voters, removals, and confirmation. Provides that Registrars provide written notification to any voter whose registration is considered inactive, with clear instructions on how to confirm or update registration status and preserve voting eligibility.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will likely result in a significant increase in SGF expenditures for the Secretary of State, may result in an increase in SGF expenditures for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections - Corrections Services (DPS&C - CS), and may result in an increase in Local Funds expenditures to Registrar of Voters and Sheriffs.

**Secretary of State (SOS)**

Proposed law requires the SOS to develop and provide standardized, accessible voter registration forms, instructions, and outreach materials in multiple languages, extend voter registration deadlines; expand digital voter registration capabilities, with secure online systems and mobile-friendly applications; and publish an annual report on voter roll maintenance activities, including counts of inactive voters, removals, and confirmations. Proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable but significant increase in SGF expenditures in FY 27 and an indeterminable but potentially nominal increase in the out-years.

Proposed law requires the SOS to develop and provide various materials in multiple languages. The LFO assumes there will be one-time costs to develop materials in FY 27 and nominal recurring costs to produce the materials in the out-year. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable, as it is unknown how many languages these materials will be produced in or the quantity of materials that will need to be produced annually.

Proposed law requires the SOS to expand digital voter registration capabilities but does not provide any specifics. Any expansion of the online system and mobile application will likely require a potentially significant increase in expenditures for IT services in FY 27 in addition to an increase in expenditures in the out-years to maintain any updates.

Proposed law requires the SOS to publish an annual report on voter roll maintenance activities, including counts of inactive voters, removals, and confirmations. The fiscal impact of providing this report is indeterminable.

Note: Due to ongoing litigation related to this topic, the Secretary of State, based upon the advice of counsel, was unable to provide information for this fiscal note. The costs illustrated in this fiscal note are an estimate by the LFO based on similar past legislation.


**CONTINUED PAGE TWO**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in local revenues as a result of convictions of knowingly and intentionally intimidating, deceiving, misinforming, or coercing any voter, prospective voter, or voter assistance provider regarding any aspect of registration, voting, or qualifications to vote. 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 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  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED:**

**Sheriffs**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures to local governing authorities to the extent that a person is convicted of knowingly and intentionally intimidating, deceiving, misinforming, or coercing any voter, prospective voter, or voter assistance provider regarding any aspect of registration, voting, or qualifications to vote. Proposed law creates a misdemeanor offense. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable, as it is unknown how many people will be convicted or the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions as a result of its potential enactment. The maximum potential sentence is imprisonment for no more than 6 months.

**Department of Public Safety and Corrections - Correction Services**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services (DPS&C – CS) if a person is convicted of coordinated, organized, or systematic efforts to suppress voter participation. Proposed law creates a crime and is a relative felony. Any impact on either State or local expenditures is contingent on whether offenders are imprisoned in State or local facilities. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation is indeterminable, since it is not known how many people will be convicted or the length of sentences imposed on those who are convicted as a result of the proposed law. The maximum imprisonment term under the proposed law is no more than five years.

To the extent that offenders sustain a felony-grade conviction for violation of the proposed law, DPS&C-CS will sustain an indeterminable increase in expenditures. For those convicted, sentenced, and then subsequently housed in a state facility, DPS&C-CS will sustain expenditures of \$107.60 per offender per day. For those convicted, sentenced, and then subsequently housed in a local facility, DPS&C-CS will sustain expenditures of \$29.39 per offender per day. DPS&C-CS advises that impacts on offender populations are anticipated to impact the number of offenders held in local facilities, and in managing its offender population, it seeks to fill all beds in state facilities first, then assigns overflow offenders to local facilities.

**Registrar of Voters**

Proposed law may result in a likely nominal increase in Local Funds expenditures for Registrars of Voters to provide written notification to any voter whose registration is considered inactive, with clear instructions on how to confirm or update registration status and preserve voting eligibility. The exact fiscal impact to the Registrars is indeterminable, as it is unknown how often they will be required to send written notification to inactive voters.

**Senate**      Dual Referral Rules


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

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

**House**

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

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

  
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