



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: SB 209 SLS 20RS 490
Bill Text Version: ENROLLED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 29, 2020 10:05 AM Author: MORRIS, JAY
Dept./Agy.: Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Analyst: Monique Appeaning
Subject: Entrance Testing for Firefighters and Police Officers

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT EN SEE FISC NOTE SG EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Requires the Department of Civil Service to develop online testing for police officer and firefighter applicants. (1/1/21)

Proposed law directs the state examiner to establish and maintain a statewide eligibility list containing names of persons eligible for appointment to entrance firefighter and entrance police officer classes by municipality, parish, or fire protection district under the municipal fire and police civil service system. Proposed law provides that the state examiner's website and the municipality's website, if available, shall publish public notice for all tests to be given on a competitive basis, during a ten-day period. This publication shall include the location for where such tests are to be held and the final date on which applications for admission to the test will be received. Proposed law provides that all applicants shall be advised of the time and place to report for an announced test at least five days in advance in any manner the state examiner may prescribe. Proposed law directs that the state examiner shall provide for online entrance firefighter and entrance police officer testing by fiscal year 2022.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total. All values are \$0.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable net impact on SGR expenditures and workload for the Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service (MFPCS). Proposed law directs MFPCS to provide an online testing option for entrance firefighter and police candidates as well as requiring the agency to establish and maintain a statewide eligibility list containing names of persons eligible for appointment for entrance firefighter and entrance police officer classes by municipality, parish, or fire protection districts under the municipal fire and police civil service system. Local districts may realize a nominal workload impact associated with public notices for testing.

Proposed law directs the state examiner to make online entrance firefighter and entrance police officer testing available by FY 22. MFPCS reports that this provision will at a minimum require a one-time expenditure to enable a web-based testing instrument. Based on a similar system in use by the State Police Commission, MFPCS reports that if it were to establish an online testing instrument through a private provider, it would require a one-time activation cost but realize no recurring costs after establishment as the provider would pass on proctoring charges ranging between \$10 and \$30 per person to applicants electing to take the online test in lieu of traveling to a physical testing site. The State Police Commission reports that its up front, one-time cost with its private proctoring service was \$5,000.

MFPCS reported that the number of candidates tested for entry level firefighter and entry level police over the past few fiscal years were as follows:

FY 19 = 2,256 FY 18 = 2,502 FY 17 = 2,856 FY 16 = 2,575

Proposed law will result in an indeterminable net workload impact for MFPCS, with some provisions increasing and others decreasing the agency's responsibilities related to testing and reporting qualifications of potential candidates to the 117 jurisdictions in the state that hire candidates from these pools. The workload of MFPCS will increase as a result of a shift of the statewide responsibility to verify eligibility of online test applicants. This activity is currently performed by the 117 statewide jurisdictions prior to in-person testing. The workload impact will also include the agency's role to maintain eligibility lists and distribute them accordingly to the 117 jurisdictions, as well as upload tests to the proctoring service and monitor testing compliance. Concurrently, the agency may realize some diminished workload impact and expenditures for travel and supplies related to traveling to proctor in-person testing around the state. The net impact is indeterminable and will be dictated largely by adoption of online testing by potential qualified applicants in lieu of in-person testing. In the short-term, proposed law is anticipated to have a net-zero impact on the agency's workload as time spent by employees proctoring tests will be supplanted by verifying eligibility for each individual requesting online testing.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

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}

Evan Brasseaux
Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director