



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 599** HLS 21RS 581  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 4, 2021	8:44 AM	<b>Author:</b> HODGES
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Secretary of State		
<b>Subject:</b> Commissioners Designated by Political Parties		<b>Analyst:</b> Patrice Thomas

ELECTIONS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to elections

Proposed law allows the chairman of each recognized political party (currently the Republican Party and the Democratic Party) to select commissioners to serve in the parish elections for each precinct, and requires the parish board of supervisors to select all commissioners provided to them by the chairman of each recognized party. Proposed law provides that each recognized political party may designate watchers to serve at every polling place on election day where that party is represented on the ballot at that election. Unless due to any electrical, mechanical, or force of nature, proposed law provides that once initiated the tabulating and counting shall not cease until all ballots have been tabulated or counted and vote totals obtained. Proposed law provides that no ballot collection box shall be left unattended and outside the view of the registrar or his duly authorized employees or cameras. Proposed law creates requirements for voting systems and requires the phase-out of any voting systems that do not meet these requirements.

EXPENDITURES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<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 increase State General Fund expenditures within the Secretary of State by \$3,136,800 for two additional election commissioners and an indeterminable increase for a replacement voting system. The proposed law requires the Parish Board of Election Supervisors to utilize qualified commissioners submitted by recognized political parties to serve at each precinct. Presently, there are two recognized political parties - the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Therefore, under this measure, the presumption is each precinct will have two additional commissioners. There are 3,921 precincts statewide. The anticipated cost per statewide election for two additional commissioners is \$1,568,400 (3,921 x \$200 per commissioner x 2 commissioners) and non-statewide elections to be half the cost of statewide elections at \$784,200.

Below is the projected breakdown of cost for the two additional commissioners designated by political parties:

- FY 22 - \$3,136,800 = 4 non-statewide elections (4\*\$784,200)
- FY 23 - \$4,705,200 = 2 statewide elections (2\*\$1,568,400) and 2 non-statewide elections (2\*\$784,200)
- FY 24 - \$5,489,400 = 3 statewide elections (3\*\$1,568,400) and 1 non-statewide elections (1\*\$784,200)
- FY 25 - \$4,705,200 = 2 statewide elections (2\*\$1,568,400) and 2 non-statewide elections (2\*\$784,200)
- FY 26 - \$3,136,800 = 4 non-statewide elections (4\*\$784,200)

Also, the proposed law requires the Secretary of State (SOS), over a 5 year period beginning January 1, 2021, to revoke the certification for voting machines and devices that do not comply with the voting system requirements in this measure. The actual cost of replacing the voting system cannot be determined until the Request for Proposal (RFP) bid process is complete, therefore cost is indeterminable. The SOS reports the cost of new voting system is estimated at \$60 M to \$90 M.

**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}

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