



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 538** HLS 23RS 906
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 17, 2023 8:31 AM	Author: JENKINS
Dept./Agy.: Department of State	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Additional Early Voting in Certain Parishes	

VOTERS/VOTING OR +\$3,549,720 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to early voting locations

Proposed law stipulates the minimum number of early voting sites based on the parish's population and area; provides that notices of early voting locations be posted to the Registrar's and Clerk's of Court website when applicable; specifies various reimbursements from the Secretary of State (SOS) to the Registrar of Voters.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$3,549,720	\$3,451,690	\$1,449,250	\$2,551,690	\$3,010,990	\$14,013,340
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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in significant increases in SGF expenditures for the Department of State to increase the number of early voting locations for statewide elections. Proposed law stipulates the minimum number of early voting sites based on the parish's population and area. Based on the table presented in the measure, the department anticipates an additional 30 early voting sites (17 large sites and 13 small sites) will need to be operational starting in 2024, in addition to the 105 early voting sites operating under current law. This measure would increase the number of early voting locations for one election in FY 24, two elections in FY 25 and FY 27, and three elections in FY 28. Proposed law also provides for reimbursements from the Department of State to the locals for the additional early voting sites, subject to appropriation. This includes \$22,000 for each additional early voting site in 2024, and equipment replacement costs and a salary subsidy for four temporary Registrar of Voters (ROVs) staff positions per statewide election starting in FY 25. The total costs are detailed in the table below with additional information on page two.

(# of Elections)	<u>FY24 (1)</u>	<u>FY25 (2)</u>	<u>FY26 (0)</u>	<u>FY27 (2)</u>	<u>FY28 (3)</u>
Commissioners	\$148,050	\$296,100	\$ -	\$296,100	\$444,150
ROVs Staff	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000
Operating Costs	\$701,590	\$701,590	\$213,000	\$701,590	\$701,590
Equipment	\$592,420	\$ -	\$102,250	\$ -	\$102,250
Payment to ROVs	\$660,000	\$1,320,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Temporary ROVs Subsidy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$420,000	\$720,000
Start-up Costs	<u>\$313,660</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total	\$3,549,720	\$3,451,690	\$1,449,250	\$2,551,690	\$3,010,990

Proposed law stipulates that election expenses incurred by the Registrar of Voters shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated to the SOS for that purpose and be reimbursable election expenses as provided by R.S. 18:1400.2. The LFO assumes this would require the ROVs to reimburse the SOS for most, if not all, expenses related to this measure, outside of the payment to ROVs and Temporary ROVs Subsidy.

SEE EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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Commissioners: Each new site will require Early Voting Commissioners at a rate of \$150 per day. Large early voting sites will require six (6) Early Voting Commissioners while small early voting sites will require three (3) Early Voting Commissioners. For seven (7) days of work, this equates to \$6,300 (\$150 per day * 6 commissioners * 7 days) per statewide election for large sites and \$3,150 (\$150 per day * 3 commissioners * 7 days) per statewide election for small sites. The statewide costs would be \$148,050 (\$6,300 * 17 large sites + \$3,150 * 13 small sites) per election. In years with two statewide elections, costs would increase to \$296,100. In years with three statewide elections, costs would increase to \$444,150.

ROVs Staff: Each new early voting site will require one Register of Voters staff member. The department estimates this cost will be \$37,800 for salary and related benefits per election. For 30 sites, this would be a cost of \$1,134,000 (\$37,800 salary/rb * 30 new sites) annually.

Operating Costs: The department estimates that large sites will have an operating cost of \$23,720 and small sites will have an operating cost of \$22,950. These costs include the data circuit line, cellular data, router maintenance, security, supplies, and advertising. Annual operating costs total \$701,590 (\$23,720*17 + \$22,950*13) in election years. In FY 26, there are no statewide elections which reduces the costs to approximately \$213,000 for data circuit lines, router maintenance, and cellular data.

Equipment: The department estimates the costs of equipment will be approximately \$23,955 at new large sites and will be \$14,245 at small sites. The total cost in FY 24 is \$592,420 (\$23,955 * 17 + \$14,245 * 13).

Propose law also stipulates that starting in 2025, one-half of the technology replacement fee be paid by the department to the registrar of voters with funds appropriated for that purpose. The department estimates this to be \$102,250 in FY 26 and FY 28. The replacement costs are subject to appropriation.

Payment to ROVs: Proposed law provides that for each additional early voting location in 2024, \$22,000 shall be paid to the Register of Voters from funds appropriated to the Secretary of State, if funds are appropriated for that purpose. For the 30 new early voting sites, this would equate to \$660,000 (\$22,000 * 30 new sites * 1 statewide election) in FY 24 and \$1,320,000 (\$22,000 * 30 new sites * 2 statewide elections) in FY 25. This expenditure is subject to appropriation.

Temporary ROVs Subsidy: Proposed law provides that starting in 2025, for each new early voting location the Secretary of State provide a subsidy for the salary of four temporary registrar of voters staff for each day of early voting at the current rate paid to a commissioner-in-charge with funds appropriated for that purpose. The department anticipates this will go into effect in FY 27. The cost for the temporary ROVs subsidies would be \$420,000 (\$250 day rate * 14 days of early voting * 30 new early voting locations * 4 positions) in FY 27 and \$720,000 (\$250 day rate * 24 days of early voting * 30 new early voting locations * 4 positions) in FY 28. This expenditure is subject to appropriation.

Start Up Costs: The department estimates additional start-up costs for network infrastructure, line drops, printers, laptops, and associated supplies at \$12,570 for large sites and \$7,690 for small sites. The total cost in FY 24 for start up equipment is \$313,660 (\$12,570 * 17 + \$7,690 * 13).

Senate Dual Referral Rules
[X] 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
[] 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

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