



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 538** HLS 23RS 906
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP HSE COMM AMD**
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 22, 2023	8:47 AM	Author: JENKINS
Dept./Agy.: Department of State		
Subject: Additional Early Voting in Certain Parishes		Analyst: Kimberly Fruge

VOTERS/VOTING OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to early voting locations

Proposed law provides that parishes may establish additional early voting sites if adequate funds are appropriated for that purpose; each additional early voting site would be subject to the supervision of the Secretary of State.

Proposed law stipulates a minimum number of early voting sites based on the parish's population and area that may be established; 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.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an increase in state and local expenditures to provide for additional early voting sites; however, these costs are indeterminable and subject to appropriation. Proposed law sets up a guideline for the number of early voting locations within a parish and allows a parish, should funds be appropriated for that purpose, to provide for additional early voting sites.

The total increase in costs is dependent on how many statewide election occur within a year, how many new large sites are established, and how many new small sites are established. The cost to set up a large site would be \$23,955 for equipment, \$2700 for network infrastructure, and \$9,870 for line drops, printers, laptops and associated supplies. The cost to setup a small site would be \$14,245 for equipment, \$1,165 for network infrastructure, and \$6,525 for line drops, printers, laptops and associated supplies. Each site would require a Registrar of Voters (ROVs) staff member which would cost approximately \$37,800 in salary and related benefits. In addition, each large site has an operating cost of \$23,720 while each small site has an operating cost of \$22,950. Lastly, large sites would require six (6) Early Voting Commissioners while small sites would require (3) Early Voting Commissioners. The day rate for early voting commissioners is \$150. Each sites may also have various additional costs to the locals related to location rental, technology fees, and additional temporary staff that are indeterminable at this time.

Based on the table provided in proposed law, the Department of State indicates there are 30 new early voting sites (17 large sites and 13 small sites) that could be established. This measure would increase the number of early voting locations for two elections in FYs 24, 25 and 27, and three elections in FY 28. The table below presents the estimated cost based on these 30 locations with additional details provided on page 2. **Proposed law provides for the number of early voting locations that may be established. To the extent not all 30 locations that are possible under this measure are established, costs will decrease accordingly.**

(# of Elections)	FY24 (2)	FY25 (2)	FY26 (0)	FY27 (2)	FY28 (3)
Operating Costs	\$701,590	\$701,590	\$195,000	\$701,590	\$701,590
Commissioners	\$296,100	\$359,550	\$ -	\$296,100	\$444,150
ROVs Staff	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000	\$1,134,000
Equipment	\$592,420	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$204,500
Start-up Costs	\$313,660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$3,037,770	\$2,195,140	\$1,329,000	\$2,131,690	\$2,484,240

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}	House <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}
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Evan Brasseaux
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

CONTINUED EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION FROM PAGE ONE:

Election expenses are typically paid by the Secretary of State (SOS) and the SOS is reimbursed by the locals for their portion of the election costs. Proposed law provides that for each additional early voting location implemented pursuant to this measure, the Secretary of State can reimburse the Registrar of Voter for expenses related to location rentals, technology fees, and temporary staffing needs if the legislature appropriates adequate funds to the Secretary of State. These costs are indeterminable at this time.

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 \$195,000 for data circuit lines, router maintenance, and cellular data.

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. Early voting commissioners are allowed more compensation days during presidential elections. For this fiscal note, the calculation is based on 17 days in FY 25. The additional three days brings the total for FY 25 to \$359,550. 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) in years with an election.

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). In FY 28, the department estimates a cost to replace equipment at \$204,500.

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
[] 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}
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