



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 680** HLS 24RS 687
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 2, 2024	3:45 PM	Author: CARLSON
Dept./Agy.: Department of State/Clerks of Court		
Subject: Alternate Official Journal		Analyst: Kimberly Fruge

PUBLIC PRINTING OR +\$276,860 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for an alternate official journal of the state and alternate official journals of political subdivisions

Current law requires the state and each parish, municipality, school board, and political subdivision publish its minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets, and other official proceedings in the official journal, a local newspaper selected by the state and each parish, municipality, and school board respectively.

Proposed law authorizes the official website of the Clerk of Court's website to be used as an alternative official journal for parishes, municipalities, school boards, and political subdivisions; authorizes the Clerk of Court to charge for publishing information on its website.

Proposed law authorizes the Secretary of State's website to be used as an alternative official journal for the state; authorizes the Secretary of State to charge for publishing information on its website.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$276,860	\$181,651	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$458,511
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	SEE BELOW	\$187,100	\$192,713	\$198,495	\$578,308
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in a significant increase in expenditures by the Department of State and the Clerks of Court to develop their websites to be used as an alternate official journal. Proposed law authorizes the Department of State and the Clerks of Court to charge a fee to recoup the costs associated with acting as an alternate official journal.

Clerks of Court:

Proposed law will result in a significant, but indeterminable, increase in Local Funds expenditures for parish Clerks of Court. Proposed law authorizes the Clerk of Court to act as an alternate official journal for the parish, municipalities, school boards, and political subdivisions within the parish. The impact to the Clerks of Court will depend on whether the current website, if they have one, is setup to host such information and what the additional burden will be to equip the website and maintain it moving forward. The LFO assumes that if entities choose to use the Clerk of Court's website as the alternate official journal, most Clerks of Court will need an additional staff member to handle submissions and invoice and monitor payments.

Department of State:

A breakdown of costs by fiscal year for the Department of State is below with further description on page two. In summary, the department estimates a one-time expenditure of \$96,000 to develop the website, one-time costs of \$4,500 for equipment, and a recurring expenditure starting at \$180,860 in FY 25 for two Accountant 3 positions, for a total of \$276,860. The department assumes a 3% increase in salary and related benefits in subsequent fiscal years. The department indicates it will need SGF to cover the costs upfront but will charge a fee to recoup costs in the subsequent fiscal years. To the extent the department is unable to cover the increase in expenditures with the fees collected, they may need SGF to supplement SGR.

<u>FY 25</u>	<u>FY 26</u>	<u>FY 27</u>	<u>FY 28</u>	<u>FY 29</u>
\$276,860	\$181,651	\$187,100	\$192,713	\$198,495

The number of departments and/or agencies who will use the Secretary of State's website as an alternative official journal is unknown. The LFO cannot corroborate the increased workload predicted by the department. To the extent the workload is less than anticipated, the additional workload may be achievable with fewer than two positions. Alternatively, if the workload is more than anticipated, more than two additional employee may be required.


EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law authorizes the Department of State and the Clerks of Court to charge a fee for publishing information on its website, thereby increasing SGR revenues for the Department of State and Local Funds revenues for the Clerks of Court. The amount of the fee is not specified the bill. It is unknown how many entities will chose to use the alternative official journal, therefore any increase in revenue is indeterminable. The LFO assumes revenue collection will be used to offset the increase in expenditures incurred by the Department of State and the Clerks of Court.

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



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 680** HLS 24RS 687
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 2, 2024 3:45 PM	Author: CARLSON
Dept./Agy.: Department of State/Clerks of Court	
Subject: Alternate Official Journal	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge

CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Page 2 of 2


EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED:

The department anticipates needing two Accountant 3 positions to receive submissions and invoice and monitor payments. The breakdown of costs for one Accountant 3 position is outlined in the table below and includes a one-time expenditure of \$2,250 for equipment. For both positions and the one-time development costs, the total increase in expenditures in FY 25 is \$276,860 (\$90,430 Accountant 3 position x 2 + \$96,000 website development). The department assumes a 3% increase in recurring costs in subsequent fiscal years.

	<u>Accountant 3</u>
Salary	\$58,782
Related Benefits	\$24,688
Operating Services	\$4,710
<u>Acquisitions (one-time costs)</u>	<u>\$2,250</u>
Total	\$90,430

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