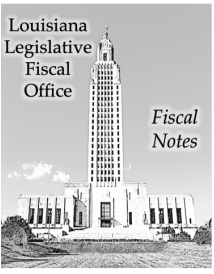


**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 342** HLS 25RS 475  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 8, 2025 12:10 PM	<b>Author:</b> BAYHAM
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Department of State	<b>Analyst:</b> Kimberly Fruge
<b>Subject:</b> Increases Qualifying Fees	

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES OR INCREASE SG RV See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to qualifying fees and nominating petitions for certain candidates

Proposed law increases the qualifying fee for candidates for (1) governor from \$750 to \$5,000; (2) lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and commissioner of insurance from \$600 to \$5,000; and (3) U.S. senator and representative from \$600 to \$2,500.

Proposed law also allows a person not affiliated with a political party to sign a nominating petition and decreases the number of signatures required for a nominating petition for a candidate of a statewide office from 5,000 (at least 500 from each congressional district) to 2,500 (at least 250 from each congressional district).

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<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>

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$0	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$0	<b>INCREASE</b>	<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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**  
 There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**  
 Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in SGR revenues for the Department of State due to an increase in certain qualifying fees. There is no way to predict how many candidates will qualify for future elections, thus the total increase is unknown at this time. In addition, the increase will vary from year to year depending on when candidates qualify for each office.

For illustrative purposes, the table below depicts the potential increase based on the number of candidates who qualified in the most recent election for each position.


Positions	Number of Candidates	Current Fee	Current Total Collection	Proposed Fee	Proposed Collection	Difference
Governor	15	\$750	\$11,250	\$5,000	\$75,000	\$63,750
Lieutenant Governor	6	\$600	\$3,600	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$26,400
Secretary of State	8	\$600	\$4,800	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$35,200
Attorney General	5	\$600	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$22,000
Treasurer	3	\$600	\$1,800	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$13,200
Commissioner of Agriculture	1	\$600	\$600	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,400
Commissioner of Insurance	1	\$600	\$600	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,400
US Senator	13	\$600	\$7,800	\$2,500	\$32,500	\$24,700
US Representative	24	\$600	\$14,400	\$2,500	\$60,000	\$45,600
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$47,850</b>		<b>\$287,500</b>	<b>\$239,650</b>

An increase in revenue will only occur in years in which the above listed candidates are running for office. FY 28 is the only fiscal year where all candidates listed above run in the five-year window and the only year where revenues may increase to the level depicted in the table. In FY 26 and FY 30, only US Congressional Candidates will be running for office, an increase of approximately \$70,300. In FY 27 and FY 29, there are no elections for the elected officials listed above.

**The Department of State reports that currently most, if not all, candidates qualify by paying the fee. To the extent, the proposed law leads to an increase in the number of candidates who choose to qualify via petition instead of paying the qualifying fee, the increase in revenues may not be realized or may be realized to a degree less than anticipated.**

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**