

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 544** HLS 26RS 496

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 26, 2026 3:09 PM	Author: OWEN, CHARLES
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State/Registrars of Voters	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Citizens Advisory Referendum Election	

ELECTIONS/INITIATIVE-REF

OR SEE FISC NOTE LF EX

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Authorizes a citizens advisory referendum election

Proposed law authorizes a citizens advisory referendum election; requires the Secretary of State to provide a form to be used for the petition to call a citizens advisory referendum; requires the Registrar of Voter of the parish wherein a citizens advisory referendum election is sought to certify the number of names appearing on the petition, the number of qualified electors of the parish whose handwritten signatures appear on the petition, and the total number of of electors within the parish as of the date of the filing of the petition with the Secretary of State; and allows the Registrar to request and accept the assistance of employees of the Department of State and Registrars and Deputy Registrars from other parishes to complete the certification of the citizens advisory referendum petition.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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 Local Fund expenditures to the extent that a Registrar of Voters needs to hire temporary staff to assist with the certification of the citizens advisory referendum petition. Proposed law authorizes a citizens advisory referendum election and provides for the certification process by the Registrar of Voters including verifying the signatures that appear on the petition. Proposed law will increase the workload for the Registrar of Voters when a citizen advisory petition is filed. While proposed law allows a Registrar to request and accept assistance of the Department of State or Registrars or Deputy Registrars from other parishes, there may be instances (for example, if the petition is filed close to a busy election season) when the Registrar may need to hire temporary staff to help certify the petition. The exact fiscal impact is situational and will likely vary from parish to parish.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

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

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer