LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 847** HLS 26RS 1244
Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 13, 2026 5:44 PM **Author:** BUTLER
Dept./Agy.: Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Subject: Soil and Water Conservation Commission **Analyst:** Richie Anderson

DISTRICTS/WATER CONSERVN EN DECREASE LF EX See Note

Provides for the election, duties, and requirements of district supervisors of the soil and water conservation commission

Present law authorizes the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to conduct elections to elect district supervisors for the commission. Proposed law transfers election oversight of district supervisors for the commission to the Secretary of State, modifies supervisor terms, vacancy procedures, and attendance requirements for reappointment or reelection of district supervisors.

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	**DECREASE**	**DECREASE**	**DECREASE**	**DECREASE**	**DECREASE**	
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.	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	
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						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may decrease local expenditures for the Soil and Water Conservation's individual districts. Proposed law transfers election oversight of district supervisors from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to the Secretary of State (SOS).

Louisiana has 44 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Each district is governed by a board of five supervisors, three of whom are elected and two of whom are appointed by the commission. Elected supervisors serve three-year terms and are elected annually in June on a rotating basis. LDAF reports that, in most cases, an election is not required, as most districts historically have had one person running unopposed.

Currently, in the event an election is required, these districts cover the costs to conduct the election. LDAF estimates that the costs to the districts is typically between $800 and $3,500 per election, depending on the number of parishes in the district.

The SOS currently provides private elections and passes any costs to the entity for which the election is held, through fees charged for voting machine rentals and ballot preparations. The SOS does not anticipate any expenditures to implement the proposed law, as the costs to conduct the election will be passed on to the individual Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In the event of an election, the Soil and Water Conservation District would be required to pay the SOS to rent voting machines and prepare ballots. The SOS reports that each machine required to be rented costs $100, and has a two machine minimum per location. Additionally, the SOS provides that each ballot style configuration costs $100 each. This would result in a minimum cost of $300 for each election conducted. The actual cost will depend on how many voting locations will be needed per districts, which will depend on the number of parishes in the district. This may result in a decrease in local expenditures required for each election conducted.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may increase revenues deposited into the statutorily dedicated Voting Technology Fund. Proposed law transfers election oversight of district supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to the Secretary of State (SOS). The SOS reports that each machine required to be rented costs $100, and has a two machine minimum per location, and a $100 fee for ballot configuration. LDAF reports that these elections are rare, as candidates typically run unopposed. To the extent elections for these districts occur, there will be an indeterminable increase in revenue for SOS.

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