

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 458** HLS 13RS 1108
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| Date: April 24, 2013 7:12 AM | Author: HUNTER |
| Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State | Analyst: Evelyn McWilliams |
| Subject: Repeals Restrictions to Registration & Voting for Felons | |

VOTERS/VOTING OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1
 Provides with respect to voter eligibility

The proposed legislation repeals restrictions to registration and voting of persons convicted of a felony.

| EXPENDITURES | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 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 | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| Annual Total | | | | | | |
| REVENUES | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 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 | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| Annual Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation is anticipated to result in an indeterminable increase in workload for the Department of Corrections. The proposed bill repeals restrictions to registration and voting for incarcerated persons convicted of a felony. Thus, there will likely be a need for correctional personnel to monitor the absentee mail ballots received and mailed. To the extent proposed legislation results in a significant number of inmates voting by mail ballot, the Department of Corrections may need temporary or seasonal employees to process votes cast. The specific expenditure impact of these seasonal employees is indeterminable and dependent upon the number of mail ballots processed by the department.

NOTE: To the extent that CSOs are not allowed to open absentee mail ballots, the Registrar of Voters may incur additional workload associated with processing these additional ballots.

The Department of Corrections indicates it will require \$320,000 and 8 new full-time correctional security officers (CSO) to allow convicted felons to vote absentee by mail. The additional funding will be utilized to provide for salaries (\$30,000 per year for each CSO) and related benefits (\$10,000 per year for each CSO). The CSOs will be assigned tasks related to the function of the mailroom during the absentee voting period and during normal times. Tasks related to the absentee voting period include opening incoming ballots received from registrar of voters, delivering ballots to inmates and inspecting outgoing ballots. Two CSO's will be assigned to the mailroom at Angola and one CSO will be assigned to the mailroom at each of the 6 remaining prisons. With only four scheduled elections held annually, the LFO questions the need for the Department of Corrections to hire full-time employees for work of a seasonal or temporary nature.

The Secretary of State would no longer be required to receive reports on the status of persons convicted of a felony and would discontinue its felony reporting process. In addition, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections would no longer be required to report on the status of convicted felons, which will likely result in a minimal reduction in workload.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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

Evan Brasseaux
Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director