

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 970** HLS 14RS 1107

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 18, 2014 1:24 PM	Author: JEFFERSON
Dept./Agy.: Corrections	Analyst: Stephanie C. Blanchard
Subject: Voting by persons who are incarcerated	

VOTERS/VOTING

OR +\$6,261 GF EX See Note

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Provides relative to voting by persons who are incarcerated

Present law provides that a person incarcerated in an institution inside or outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote, who is not under the order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, may only vote absentee by mail and only upon meeting certain requirements. Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides for a special program for voters incarcerated in the parish in which they are registered to vote whereby such voters may vote early. Provides for electioneering in connection with voting by incarcerated persons which provides that during the period extending from 7 days prior to the time that voting begins pursuant to R.S. 18:1341 for an election until the polls closed on election day, no owner, operator, employee, or agent of such owner, operator, employee, or any stockholder of any institution or candidate or employee of or agent or worker for any candidate shall perform or cause to be performed several acts while on duty or on the premises of the institution. Provides that whoever violates any provision of proposed law shall be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both. Provides for a second offense or any succeeding offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more that one year, or both.

EXPENDITURES	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$6,261	\$1,283	\$1,283	\$1,283	\$1,283	\$11,393
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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation will result in an increase in state general fund expenditures for the Secretary of State in the amount of \$6,261 in FY 15 and \$1,283 in subsequent years. This legislation provides for early voting for those who are incarcerated, who would otherwise be authorized to vote. In order to implement voting at the prisons, the Secretary of State would have to provide lockable ballot boxes and printed paper ballots to the prisons. Registrars of Voters would need 2 ballot boxes in the 5 larger parishes and 1 ballot box for each of the smaller parishes, for a total of 74 ballot boxes. First year costs would be \$6,261 (\$49.93 per box x 74 ballot boxes + \$1,283 ballot printing x 2 statewide elections). The cost for the ballot boxes would be one-time while printing costs would be incurred annually.

The proposed legislation also provides for a misdemeanor; therefore, these offenders are not sentenced to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Local law enforcement agencies may realize an indeterminable increase in expenditures associated with prison costs. The cost increase will depend on the number of persons convicted, the minimum sentence an offender serves, and the cost per day for a local law enforcement agency to incarcerate an offender.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure. Any revenue generated through the imposition of fines created by this legislation would accrue to local government entities.

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| <u>Senate</u> | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H} | | | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {H & 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