

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 851** HLS 16RS 766
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 15, 2016 5:44 PM	Author: HUNTER
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	Analyst: Zachary Rau
Subject: Voter Eligibility for Persons Incarcerated	

VOTERS/VOTING OR +\$196,469 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides with respect to voter eligibility

Proposed law repeals current law disqualifying persons convicted of a felony from eligibility to vote or to register to vote. Proposed law further repeals references in present law to persons convicted of a felony losing their ability to vote, as well as references to persons convicted of a felony being reinstated as registered voters.

EXPENDITURES	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$196,469	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$196,469
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	\$196,469	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$196,469

REVENUES	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	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

The proposed legislation will result in an increase in state general fund expenditures related to one-time expenses for sending confirmation cards to newly eligible voters and updates to the Secretary of State's voter registration system.

The Secretary of State currently has 150,355 registered voters listed as felony offenders that will require a confirmation card or similar mailing once they become eligible to vote. The current vendor the Secretary of State uses to mail confirmation cards charges \$0.335 per confirmation card, and the Secretary of State estimates \$0.28 for return postage per card. Using the Secretary of State's estimates, the proposed legislation will have a minimum expenditure impact totaling \$50,369 for confirmation mailings (150,355 registered voters listed as felony offenders * \$0.335/card) and \$42,100 for return postage (150,355 registered voters listed as felony offenders * \$0.28).

The Secretary of State also estimates a one-time expense of \$104,000 related to updating its voter registration system and websites to remove language pertaining to felons and felonies, as well as modifying the application to no longer check for felon status when one registers to vote. The Secretary of State will contract these expenses to GCR Inc. at a rate of \$100 per hour. The Secretary of State estimates a total of 1,040 man-hours will be needed to complete this project. The Secretary of State estimates the proposed law will total \$196,469 to implement between costs to update its voter registration system (\$104,000), confirmation mailings (\$50,369), and return postage costs (\$42,100).

Due to the proposed legislation repealing the language in current law disqualifying offenders convicted of a felony from voting, confirming current convicted felons by mail represents a one-time expense for the Secretary of State. The proposed legislation may result in a workload reduction in subsequent fiscal years to the extent felony offenders are incarcerated after the passage of the proposed legislation, as their names would no longer be removed from the eligible voter rolls.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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