

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 419** HLS 20RS 585
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 9, 2020 8:29 AM	Author: LANDRY
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	Analyst: Patrice Thomas
Subject: No Excuse Absentee Voting by Mail	

ELECTIONS/ABSENTEE VOTE OR +\$1,397,845 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Allows all registered voters to utilize voting by mail

Present law requires a voter to provide reasons to vote absentee such as being out of the state or parish on election day (must provide dates of absence) or hospitalization. Proposed law removes absentee requirements for absentee voting and allows all registered voters to vote by mail. Proposed law removes the word "absentee" from present law on voting by mail and early voting. Present law requires the Secretary of State to deliver to the registrar in each parish absentee by mail ballots for up to 10% of the registered voters within the parish. Proposed law changes the percentage of vote by mail ballots to 15%. Present law specifies duties the Registrars of Voters and the Parish Board of Election Supervisors must perform if the eligibility of a voter to vote absentee by mail is based upon false or fraudulent information. Proposed law repeals those duties. Under present law, the mailed ballot shall contain a ballot envelope and a return envelope. Proposed law provides that the return envelopes have prepaid postage.

EXPENDITURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$1,397,845	\$459,593	\$463,293	\$465,143	\$463,293	\$3,249,167
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	\$1,397,845	\$459,593	\$463,293	\$465,143	\$463,293	\$3,249,167

REVENUES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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 will result in a one-time expenditure of \$934,552 SGF expenditures as well as recurring expenditures of \$463,293 SGF in FY 20 and subsequent fiscal years. Proposed law removes being absent as a requirement to vote by mail. Therefore, registered voters do not need to provide any excuse to vote by mail ballot. Based upon states that have passed similar laws, proposed law is anticipated to increase mail ballots by approximately 50%. However, to the extent, the increase of mail ballots is greater than 50%, increase costs associated with this measure would be higher.

To implement proposed law, the Secretary of State anticipates one-time expenditures of \$934,552 for IT program development changes, the printing of new forms, envelopes, posters and manuals to remove the word absentee as well as the acquisition of equipment. The Election Registration and Information Network (ERIN) IT system requires programming development changes to reports and screens that are anticipated to cost \$204,000 (2040 programming hours x \$100 per hour). IT programming development changes may take up to 12 months. Over 51 forms, envelopes, posters, and manuals would require revision and reprints at a cost of \$470,552. Also, the purchase of higher speed scanners at a cost of \$260,000 to count the anticipated increase of mail ballots (26 scanners x \$10,000 per scanner).

Over the past 5 years, an average of 171,100 mail ballots were requested at an average cost of \$219,986 for ballot printing and supplies. Projecting a 50% increase of mail ballots requested annually, an additional 85,550 mail ballots would have to be printed with supplies at cost of \$109,993 plus the mailing cost of \$85,550 (85,550 x \$1 postage). Proposed law requires the Secretary of State to provide prepaid return postage that is not required under present law. The annual increase in return postage is projected at \$256,650 (256,650 mail ballots x \$1 return postage). The Secretary of State anticipates needing 74 additional election night commissioners to assist with processing the increased number of mail ballots. An additional 2 commissioners would be required for each of the top 10 parishes and one additional commissioner for each of remaining the 54 parishes. The cost for 74 commissioners would be \$3,700 for each statewide election (74 commissioners x \$50 per election). The Secretary of State estimates non-statewide elections would result in expenditures of approximately half of a statewide election, or roughly \$1,850 each.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

<p><u>Senate</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}</p>	<p><u>House</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}</p>
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Staff Director



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Continued EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION from Page 1

Proposed Law Expenditures

One-time Expenditures

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include IT Programming (\$204,000), Replacement of Printed Material (\$470,552), High Speed Scanner (\$260,000), and Subtotal (\$934,552).

Recurring Expenditures

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include 85,550 Additional Ballots Printed (\$93,493), Ballot Supplies (\$16,500), Postage to Mail Ballots (\$85,550), Return Postage on Mail Ballots (\$256,650), and Subtotal (\$452,193).

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include 74 Additional Commissioners (\$11,100*) and Subtotal (\$463,293).

Total Expenditures \$1,397,845

*In subsequent fiscal years, the recurring expenditures for the additional 74 commissioners fluctuate depending on the number of statewide elections; \$3,700 for each statewide election and \$1,850 for each non-statewide election.

- FY 21 - \$1,397,845 = \$934,552 + \$452,193 + \$11,100 (2 statewide elections and 2 non-statewide elections)
FY 22 - \$ 459,593 = \$452,193 + \$7,400 (4 non-statewide elections)
FY 23 - \$ 463,293 = \$452,193 + \$11,100 (2 statewide elections and 2 non-statewide elections)
FY 24 - \$ 465,143 = \$452,193 + \$12,950 (3 statewide elections and 1 non-statewide election)
FY 25 - \$ 463,293 = \$452,193 + \$11,100 (2 statewide elections and 2 non-statewide elections)

Senate Dual Referral Rules
[X] 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
[] 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
[X] 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}

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