



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 397** SLS 20RS 595  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 11, 2020 7:01 AM	<b>Author:</b> BERNARD
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Secretary of State	<b>Analyst:</b> Patrice Thomas
<b>Subject:</b> Counting Absentee and Early Voting Ballots	

VOTERS/VOTING EG +\$27,600 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to counting absentee and early voting ballots. (gov sig)

Present law provides that members of the Parish Board of Election Supervisors receive 6 days of compensation for preparing and supervising a primary or general election and 7 days of compensation for preparing and supervising a presidential or congressional election. For Parish Board of Election Supervisors that receive over 1,000 absentee mail ballots returned, proposed law increases the number of days of compensation from 6 days to 7 days in a primary or general election and from 7 days to 8 days in a presidential or congressional election. Proposed law provides that for parishes receiving less than 1,000 absentee by mail ballots, the board shall conduct the tabulation and counting; for parishes receiving 1,000 or more, the board may conduct the counting and must notify the secretary of state in writing no later than five days prior to the election.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$27,600	\$18,400	\$27,600	\$32,200	\$27,600	<b>\$133,400</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$27,600</b>	<b>\$18,400</b>	<b>\$27,600</b>	<b>\$32,200</b>	<b>\$27,600</b>	<b>\$133,400</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law increases SGF expenditures by \$27,600 within the Secretary of State in FY 21 as the result adding an extra day to the number of days that Parish Board of Election Supervisors members may be compensated for counting absentee and early voting ballots. Presently, each Parish Board of Election Supervisors member is authorized to receive 6 days of compensation for a primary or general election and 7 days for a presidential or congressional election. Proposed law authorizes an additional day in parishes that have over 1,000 absentee ballots returned for counting absentee and early voting ballots. Therefore, the number of days increases from 6 days to 7 days for a primary or general election, and from 7 days to 8 days for a presidential or congressional election.

Historically, only 10 parishes receive over 1,000 absentee ballots. Each Parish Board of Supervisors has 5 members that receive a \$50 per diem for each meeting day. Also, each Parish Board of Election Supervisors utilizes election commissioners to assist with counting. Based on actual costs for the October 2019 election, an average of 67 commissioners were utilized in the 10 parishes that received over 1,000 absentee ballots. Commissioners receive compensation of \$100 per day. As a result, the estimated costs of an additional day is \$2,500 for election board members (\$50 per diem x 5 board members x 10 parishes) and \$6,700 for commissioners (\$100 per day x 67 commissioners), totaling \$9,200 per presidential or congressional election. The cost of a primary or general election is \$4,600, or half the cost of a presidential or congressional election. *NOTE: To the extent the number of parishes receiving over 1,000 absentee ballots in the future increases or decreases, the projected cost would change proportionally.*

Below is a projected breakdown of costs for the additional day of compensation per fiscal year:

- FY 21 - \$27,600 = 2 statewide elections (2 \*\$9,200) and 2 non-statewide elections (2 \*\$4,600)
- FY 22 - \$18,400 = 4 non-statewide elections (4\*\$4,600)
- FY 23 - \$27,600 = 2 statewide elections (2 \*\$9,200) and 2 non-statewide elections (2 \*\$4,600)
- FY 24 - \$32,200 = 3 statewide elections (3 \*\$9,200) and 1 non-statewide elections (1 \*\$4,600)
- FY 25 - \$27,600 = 2 statewide elections (2 \* \$9,200) and 2 non-statewide elections (2 \*\$4,600)

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

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}

*Evan Brasseaux*  
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