

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 486** SLS 20RS 883
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP SEN COMM AMD**
 Sub. Bill For.: SB 486

Date: May 20, 2020 11:20 AM	Author: BARROW
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	Analyst: Patrice Thomas
Subject: Emergency Absentee by Mail and Early Voting	

VOTERS/VOTING OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2
 Authorizes registered voters to vote by mail in certain circumstances. (8/1/20)

Proposed law authorizes voting by mail during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency or state of public health emergency. Under proposed law, voters are not required to provide a reason for requesting mail ballots during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency or state of public health emergency. Proposed law provides that the Secretary of State deliver mail ballots for up to 15% of registered votes within the parish to each registrar of voters. During a state of emergency or public health emergency, proposed law provides that mail ballots include return postage.

This fiscal note reflects a substitute of Senate Bill No. 486 by Senator Barrow.

EXPENDITURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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	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	<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

If a state of emergency or public health emergency is declared by the Governor, proposed law may increase expenditures within the Secretary of State by an indeterminable amount. Proposed law allows all registered voters to request a mail ballot during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency or state of public health emergency. 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.

For illustrative purposes, if the proposed law was implemented in FY 21 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and all elections occurring during FY 21 are impacted, 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 78 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 14 parishes and one additional commissioner for each of remaining the 54 parishes. The cost for 78 commissioners would be \$3,900 for each statewide election (78 commissioners x \$50 per election). The Secretary of State estimates non-statewide (municipal) elections would result in expenditures of approximately half of a statewide election, or roughly \$1,950 each.

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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 type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input 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
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Staff Director

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

CONTINUED EXPENDITURES EXPLANATION from Page 1

Illustrative Example Assuming
All FY 21 Elections

One-time Expenditures

IT Programming	\$ 204,000
Replacement of Printed Material	\$ 470,552
High Speed Scanners	\$ 260,000
Subtotal	\$934,552

Recurring Expenditures

85,550 Additional Ballots Printed	\$ 93,493
Ballot Supplies	\$ 16,500
Postage to Mail Ballots	\$ 85,550
Return Postage on Mail Ballots	\$256,650
	\$452,193

78 Additional Commissioners (2 Statewide Elections and 2 non-Statewide Elections)	\$ 11,700
Subtotal	\$463,893

Total Expenditures	\$1,398,445
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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}

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