

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



Fiscal Note On: **SB 22** SLS 202ES 95  
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

**Date:** October 23, 2020 10:57 AM **Author:** HEWITT  
**Dept./Agy.:** State **Analyst:** Patrice Thomas  
**Subject:** Counting Absentee and Early Voting Ballots

VOTERS/VOTING EN +\$82,800 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides for preparation and counting of absentee and early voting ballots. (gov sig) (Item #5)

Present law provides that members of the Parish Board of Election Supervisors receive 8 days of compensation for preparing and supervising a presidential or congressional election and 7 days of compensation for preparing and supervising a primary or general election. During a declared disaster or emergency, for Parish Board of Election Supervisors that receive over 1,000 absentee mail ballots returned, proposed law increases the number of days of compensation by 3 days from 8 days to 11 days in a presidential or congressional election and from 7 days to 10 days in a primary or general election.

Present law provides that parish board commissioners begin counting absentee by mail ballots and early voting ballots the day before the election. During a declared disaster or emergency, proposed law increases the number of days of counting by 3 days from 1 day to 4 days before the election.

Proposed law shall be void after August 1, 2021.

<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.	\$82,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$82,800</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>\$82,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$82,800</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**

Since the State is currently in a public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, proposed law increases SGF expenditures by \$82,800 within the Secretary of State in FY 21 as the result adding three (3) extra days 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 8 days for a presidential or congressional election and 7 days of compensation for a primary or general election. During a declared disaster or emergency, proposed law authorizes 3 additional days in parishes that have over 1,000 absentee ballots returned for counting absentee and early voting ballots. Therefore, during a disaster or emergency, the number of days increases from 8 days to 11 days for a presidential or congressional election, and from 7 days to 10 days for a primary or general election. Proposed law expires on August 1, 2021.

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 \$7,500 for election board members (\$50 per diem x 5 board members x 10 parishes x 3 days) and \$20,100 for commissioners (\$100 per day x 67 commissioners x 3 days), totaling \$27,600 per presidential or congressional election. The cost of a primary or general election is \$13,800, 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 three additional days of compensation:  
 FY 21 - \$82,800 = 2 statewide elections (2 x \$27,600) and 2 non-statewide elections (2 x \$13,800)

**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}

*Alan M. Boxberger*  
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**Staff Director**