



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 259** HLS 22RS 632
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 30, 2022 10:35 AM	Author: MAGEE
Dept./Agy.: Legislature	
Subject: Constitutional convention	Analyst: Tanesha Morgan

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for calling a limited constitutional convention and preparations therefor

Proposed law calls a limited constitutional convention to convene on 8/1/22, to be composed of 120 delegates. Requires convention to complete draft of proposed constitution by 7/1/23. Requires governor to call an election within 10 days after the proposed constitution is submitted, to be held 10/14/23. Proposed law prohibits a delegate from accepting any compensation for work performed as a delegate to the convention. Proposed law requires that the legislature make adequate appropriations to the convention for the payment of the necessary expenses of the convention for so long as the convention remains in existence. Proposed law provides for convention staff, budget, committees, meeting site, and other assistance.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$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>	\$0
Annual Total			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$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>	\$0
Annual Total			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation will result in a significant increase in SGF expenditures. The cost relative to expenses of convening of a constitutional convention cannot be accurately estimated due to the variables that make up the costs of such an initiative. SGF costs are discussed below.

The total cost for the convention depends on various factors such as the number of meeting days, the costs for supplies, materials, equipment, printing, security, compensation for the staff of the constitutional convention, and all other necessary expenses incurred in connection with the convention and its work.

Note: The total budget for the 1974 constitutional convention, which lasted 7 months, was approximately \$2.9 M of which \$1 M was delegate per diem costs, \$850,000 was budgeted for salary expenses of convention staff; and \$1 M for other expenses. The total budget for the 1992 mini constitutional convention was estimated at approximately \$1.5 M (excludes \$295,526 projected overtime and per diem for legislative staff).

The Secretary of State budgets for statewide primary elections as regular practice and any costs associated with this proposed election will be absorbed within the agency's budget.

The Ethics Administration indicated there could be additional postage costs associated with mailing notice of delinquency letters if delegates fail to file or fail to file timely. Any increase in postage costs will likely be absorbed by the agency.

The LFO and staffs of the House of Representatives, Senate, and agencies will likely absorb any additional duties with existing staff and resources. However, if the constitutional convention concurs with a regular legislative session, the need for additional staff may be required in addition to locating a suitable facility to hold the convention.

(Continued on Page 2)

REVENUE EXPLANATION

The bill grants the convention the authority to accept grants, donations or gifts of money and services from public and private sources to defray the expenses of the convention. The amount that may be received from non-governmental entities, if any, cannot be estimated.

(Continued on Page 2)

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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 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Page 2 of 2

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION (Continued from Page 1)

The Legislative Auditor has indicated that if the workload is not of a minimal nature, the cost will be \$12,000 for every 100 hours committed to the constitutional convention. The cost of providing an audit of the financial books and records of the constitution convention is estimated to be \$120 per hour. However, the number is hours needed to complete the audit is indeterminable at this time due to uncertainty of exactly what the audit would entail.

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