



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 680** HLS 22RS 951
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 19, 2022 9:48 AM	Author: NEWELL
Dept./Agy.: Department of State	
Subject: Notification of Polling Place Changes	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge

ELECTIONS/POLLING PLACES OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to notice of changes to polling places

Proposed law requires voters affected by polling location changes, whether by inaccessibility, consolidation of two or more locations, or a change by the parish governing authority, to be notified via electronic mail and an automated voice message or other means such as text message. In addition, in the case of a voting location change due to a vote by the parish governing authority, the change shall be published on websites maintained by the parish election officials and the Secretary of State.

Present law requires the polling place be published in the journal of the parish at least three weeks before every primary election. Proposed law requires a publication in the journal of the parish for every election and requires the websites maintained by the parish election officials list the polling locations as well.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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

Proposed law will result in a potentially significant increase in expenditures within the Department of State to notify voters of polling location changes. Currently, the Department of State sends out text and email messaging on polling location changes to subscribers. Proposed law would require that any voter whose polling location has changed receive a notification via email, voice message, or text message based on the information provided on the voter registration. The department indicates there were 88 polling locations changes in 2019, 263 in 2020, 250 in 2021, and 22 thus far in 2022. Note: COVID and hurricanes caused an increased number of polling location changes in 2020 and 2021.

Proposed law requires the Department of State to send out voice notifications, text, or email on polling location changes to all voter registered in the affected location. The department estimates an additional one-time cost of \$68,000 (\$100/hour x 680 hours) in FY 23 to make application development changes that would allow for voice messaging. Due to the random nature of polling location changes, consolidations, and establishments, an accurate estimated cost to send notifications to affected voters is indeterminable. The costs will depend on how many voters are affected by the polling change. Voice notifications cost \$0.0085 per voter. The volume of voice notifications to be sent per election is indeterminable at this time.

Proposed law also requires the parish websites maintained by election officials (Registrar of Voter and Clerks of Court, where applicable) and the Secretary of State's website publish the location of polling places. The Department of State indicates that there are 28 parishes with websites. Website additions would cost \$500 per addition. Assuming there is one change in each of these parishes, the total cost per election would be \$14,000 (\$500 x 28 parishes), or \$56,000 annually (assuming four elections).

In addition, proposed law requires the Parish Board of Election Supervisors to publish locations of polling places in the official journal of the parish for each election. Under present law, this is only required before primary elections. Publications are estimated to cost \$2,000 for parish wide publications and \$1,000 for non-parish wide publications. The type of publication that is needed will depend on the nature of the election. Assuming there is one election in every parish per election, the cost for the publications would range between \$64,000 and \$128,000 per election. This could equate to a cost between \$128,000 and \$256,000 annually to account for the addition of two non-primary elections (assuming 4 elections per year with the two primary elections already considered under present law).

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}

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