

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 17** HLS 241ES 22

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: January 16, 2024 9:04 AM	Author: EMERSON
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Closed Party Primary	

ELECTIONS

OR INCREASE GF EX See Note

Page 1 of 1

Provides for closed party primary elections for certain offices (Items #7, #8, and #10)

Proposed law creates a closed party primary system for congressional elections in the fall of 2024 and congressional and various state elections thereafter. Proposed law provides that voters are required to be members of the recognized political party to participate in its primary unless the bylaws and regulations of the party's state central committee allow for unaffiliated voters to participate. Proposed law provides that the candidate who receives the most votes in a party primary election qualifies for the general election.

Proposed law requires the first party primary election to be held on the last Saturday in August 2024 for senators or representatives in the United States Congress. Beginning in 2025, party primary elections are to be held in March of an election year and encompasses United States congressman, elective offices on a state board or commission, members of the state House of Representatives and state Senate, Justices of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and District Courts.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$0	INCREASE	\$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

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in a significant increase in SGF expenditures for the Secretary of State to prepare for and implement a closed party primary system for United States congressional offices in August 2024 and various state and judicial offices in FY 25 and thereafter. The Secretary of State has previously indicated it would need a supplemental appropriation in FY 24 to start the process of transitioning to a closed party primary. The exact amount is unknown at this time but is likely to be significant.

The LFO estimates the average election costs to be approximately \$8 M. The LFO anticipates the Secretary of State will hold an additional election each March of FY 26 and FY 28, increasing the annual election budget by a minimum of \$8 M. The LFO anticipates that there may be additional costs to transition to a closed primary system including training of various staff members and voter outreach. The magnitude of these costs is indeterminable but will likely only occur in FY 24 and FY 25.

The department is working to get more concrete estimates of these costs. Once the LFO receives feedback from the department, this fiscal note will be updated accordingly.

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
Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer