



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

Fiscal Note On: **HB 17** HLS 241ES 22  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> January 16, 2024 6:14 PM	<b>Author:</b> EMERSON
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Secretary of State	
<b>Subject:</b> Closed Party Primary	<b>Analyst:</b> Kimberly Fruge

ELECTIONS EG 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 members of the U.S. congress, 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.	\$9,773,109	\$6,000,000	\$0	SEE BELOW	\$0	\$15,773,109
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$9,773,109</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,773,109</b>

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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will result in a significant increase in SGF expenditures in FY 24, FY 25, and FY 26 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.

**FY 24:** The Secretary of State has indicated needing \$3,256,000 SGF for operating services to prepare for the August 2024 congressional primary. These costs include \$3 M for voter outreach and printing of the inactive voter list, printing "I Voted" stickers, and election accounts check orders. Lastly, the department estimates needing \$100,000 for IT programming.

**FY 25:** The department anticipates needing \$125,000 for overtime hours due to the additional election and \$80,000 in in-state travel costs for election support. In addition, the department estimates \$2,267,000 in operating expenses, including \$2 M for voter outreach.

The department estimates that holding the August 2024 election will cost approximately \$7 M. In addition, they anticipate needing \$194,535 for part-time Registrar of Voter staff to process ballots; \$75,000 to print absentee ballots, test decks, and all rankings; and \$31,574 for election service supplies.

The total estimated FY 25 need is \$9,773,109 SGF (\$125,000 overtime hours + \$80,000 travel + \$2,267,000 operating expenses + \$7,000,000 to hold the election + \$194,535 part-time staff + \$75,000 printing + \$31,574 for supplies)

**FY 26:** The Secretary of State anticipates needing a total of \$6 M SGF in FY 26 for the March primary election, an additional \$4 M over the already anticipated election costs, and \$2 M for voter outreach.

**FY 28:** There is already a presidential primary election scheduled in March 2028. All other primary election initiatives will be added to this ballot. Therefore, there are no costs to the Secretary of State in FY 28.

**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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 Legislative Fiscal Officer