



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

Fiscal Note On: **HB 568** HLS 24RS 870  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 17, 2024 2:04 PM	<b>Author:</b> WRIGHT
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> State Agencies	<b>Analyst:</b> Garrett Ordner
<b>Subject:</b> Online Receipt and Publishing of Public Comments	

STATE AGENCIES OR INCREASE EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides for state agencies to receive and publish comments online

Proposed law requires state agencies to maintain a publicly accessible website to receive public comments and to publish on the website all comments received.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</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**

There will be increased costs to state agencies to develop and maintain a website for the receipt and publishing of public comments. Costs will depend on the number of websites that must be developed and the amount of traffic the websites receive, but one estimate received by the LFO from the Division of Administration (DOA) places the cost at \$11,200 in FY 25 and \$560 annually thereafter for that single agency's website. If each agency is required to develop its own website, costs will be significant in the aggregate. Proposed law requires agencies to publish all comments received, apparently precluding any need for moderation. However, if moderation of inappropriate content is ultimately required, costs will likely be higher.

Proposed law does not define "state agency". However, the two sections of statute preceding proposed law each define "state agency" as "any board, commission, department, division, agency, office, or other entity within the executive branch of state government." It is unclear how many websites will need to be developed, as some agencies (such as those within the Department of Education) will likely share a single website managed by their department, while other agencies (such as the Special Schools and Commissions) will likely have their own websites.

The DOA Office of Technology Services (OTS) provided a cost estimate of \$11,200 in FY 25 and \$560 annually thereafter to develop and maintain a website solely for the DOA. The University of Louisiana (UL), Southern University (SU), and Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS) systems indicated that costs to develop the required websites are indeterminable but likely minimal. One UL campus did provide a cost estimate of \$10,000, which is similar to the \$11,200 estimate provided by the DOA. The Louisiana State University (LSU) system estimates its costs will be between \$8,000 and \$33,000 in FY 25 for the comment database and website design, with ongoing annual maintenance costs of \$2,000 to \$5,000. However, if the 35 institutions within these systems are each required to develop their own website instead of one website for each university system, costs to higher education will be significant in the aggregate.


**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

**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}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

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### EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

As an illustrative example, if each website is assumed to cost \$11,200 in FY 25 and \$560 annually thereafter, and a website is developed for each of 15 agencies in the Executive Department, seven Special Schools and Commissions, four university systems, the Board of Regents, and 24 other departments for a total of 51 websites, the aggregate cost would be \$571,200 in FY 25 and \$28,560 annually thereafter. However, actual costs will depend upon the amount of storage needed to host the comments and the amount of traffic each website receives. Additionally, if each state board or commission is also required to maintain a website, costs will be significantly higher.

The LFO also corresponded with the Louisiana Supreme Court and the legislature regarding potential costs if they are required to develop websites to receive and publish comments. The Louisiana Supreme Court reports that it will be able to create and maintain such a website with existing resources, but that it cannot provide any cost estimates for lower courts if they are required to create their own websites. The legislature, in consultation with its computer center, reports that it cannot estimate the cost because it has no way to estimate the amount of storage and bandwidth that will be needed for such a website.

Note: Proposed law provides that agencies "shall publish on the website all comments received." The LFO assumes that this precludes any need for moderation to delete or filter spam, obscene language, and other inappropriate content. If moderation is required, costs will increase for automated moderation software, human moderators, or both. The amount of such an increase is indeterminable and will depend upon the type and amount of moderation needed. For example, the LSU system estimates that one full-time moderator will cost \$70,500 in salaries and related benefits.

**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}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**