

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **SB 365** SLS 26RS 633  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 7, 2026 7:10 PM	<b>Author:</b> DUPLESSIS
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Inspector General/Attorney General	
<b>Subject:</b> Louisiana Voting Rights Act	<b>Analyst:</b> Kimberly Fruge

VOTERS/VOTING OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Creates the Louisiana Voting Rights Act. (gov sig)

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Voting Rights Act; provides that no political subdivision or state agency may implement, impose, or enforce any election policy or practice that results in, is likely to result in, or is motivated by, in whole or in part, the intent to result in voter suppression; provides that no political subdivision may employ any method of election that has the effect, will likely have the effect, or is motivated in part, by the intent of diluting the vote of protected class members; provides for guidelines and rules for evaluating voter suppression and vote dilution; establishes the Louisiana Voting Rights Commission in the Office of the Louisiana Inspector General; provides for five commissioners who will be compensated at an hourly rate equivalent to an assistant attorney general; provides for a nominating committee comprised of organizations certified by the inspector general; provides for required qualification of commissioners; provides that the commission may hire staff and make expenditures as necessary to carry out its responsibilities; provides for the responsibilities of the commission related to covered policies and covered political subdivisions; provides for enforcement.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<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 but indeterminable increase in expenditures for the Office of the Inspector General to establish the Voting Rights Commission and the Office of the Attorney General, to the extent they are required to act as statutory counsel to the Registrar of Voters. Proposed law may result in an increase in SGF expenditures for the Secretary of State or Local Funds expenditures for Registrar of Voters, to the extent actions are filed against them for violation of voter suppression or vote dilution, resulting in the respective entity needing to alter election practices to comply with the proposed law.

**Office of the Inspector General**

Proposed law creates the Voting Rights Commission within the Office of the Inspector General (IG) and provides for five commissioners who will be compensated at an hourly rate equivalent to an assistant attorney general. The IG estimates an hourly rate of \$350 and assumes commissioners will work 10 hours per week, resulting in a total cost of \$910,000 (5 members x \$350 per hour x 10 hours per week x 52 weeks). The LFO cannot corroborate the hourly rate proposed by the IG's office or the number of hours required annually. To the extent that the hourly rate changes or the number of hours required is different than what the IG anticipates, costs may increase or decrease accordingly.

Proposed law also requires the IG's office to certify any organization that applies to be a nominating organization for the committee. The IG's office indicates that it would require an additional T.O. position at an estimated \$120,000 for salary and related benefits to perform tasks related to certification of organizations. The LFO acknowledges that implementation of the proposed law will result in additional workload, though it cannot be confirmed whether existing positions within the IG's office can, in whole or in part, absorb this increase. To the extent that the increase in workload differs from what is anticipated by the IG, and existing staff are able to manage the increase, or the IG's office can utilize a part-time position, estimated expenditures may be lower than those provided in this fiscal note.


Proposed law authorizes the commission to hire staff and make expenditures as necessary. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable, but it is anticipated to be significant if the commission decides to hire additional staff to assist in carrying out its responsibilities.

**CONTINUED PAGE TWO**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an increase in SGR or Local Funds expenditures to the extent the Attorney General or political subdivision prevails in an action brought pursuant to proposed law and the court finds the action to be frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation. Revenues may include attorney's fees, expert witness fees, and all other litigation or pre-litigation fees and costs. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable, as it is unknown if and when a court will award the state or political subdivision following an action pursuant to proposed law.

- |  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <u>Senate</u>  | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u>   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} |                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}      |                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 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:**

**Office of the Attorney General**

Proposed law provides that an action to cure voter suppression or vote dilution may be brought by any individual or entity aggrieved by the violation. The Office of the Attorney General (AG) reports that the AG is designated as statutory counsel for the Registrar of Voters, and to the extent that they have to act as their legal counsel, costs will increase significantly. The AG's office reports that litigation under proposed law would result in a substantial workload increase and the office would require at least five (5) Assistant Attorneys General with associated expenditures. Annual salaries are approximately \$85,000 per Assistant Attorney General, plus related benefits. The department also anticipates annual operating expenses of roughly \$115,500 for travel, supplies, and other operating expenses as well as an one-time increase of \$35,000 in FY 27 for equipment and startup costs. The estimates provided by the AG's office are presented in the table below.

	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31
Salaries	\$425,000	\$442,000	\$459,680	\$478,067	\$497,190
Related Benefits	<u>\$197,263</u>	<u>\$203,153</u>	<u>\$209,279</u>	<u>\$215,650</u>	<u>\$222,276</u>
Personal Services	\$622,263	\$645,153	\$668,959	\$693,717	\$719,466
Operating Expenses	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500
Equipment	<u>\$35,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$772,763	\$760,653	\$784,459	\$809,217	\$834,966

The LFO acknowledges that implementation of the proposed law will result in additional workload, though it cannot be confirmed whether existing positions within the AG's office can, in whole or in part, absorb this increase. To the extent that the increase in workload differs from what is anticipated by the AG's office, and existing staff or fewer new positions are able to manage the increase, estimated expenditures may be lower than those provided in this fiscal note.


**Secretary of State and Registers of Voters**

Proposed law may result in an increase in SGF expenditures for the Secretary of State or Local Funds expenditures for Registrar of Voters, to the extent actions are filed against them for violation of voter suppression or vote dilution, that result in the respective entity needing to alter election practices to come into compliance with proposed law. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable, but depending on the circumstances of the action, it may be significant.

Note: Due to ongoing litigation related to this topic, the Secretary of State, based upon the advice of counsel, was unable to provide information for this fiscal note. The costs illustrated in this fiscal note are an estimate by the LFO based on similar past legislation.

**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**