

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 292** HLS 10RS 1291

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 27, 2010	3:43 PM	Author: GREENE
Dept./Agy.: State		Analyst: Evelyn McWilliams
Subject: Open Primary for Congressional Elections		

ELECTIONS EG -\$6,575,840 GF EX See Note
Provides for an open primary system of elections for congressional offices

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Deletes the requirement for a closed primary system for congressional candidates with candidates and voters participating in the first and second primary elections according to party affiliation. Deletes the requirement for a first and second party primary and provides for establishment of a single primary with candidates and voters participating without regard to party affiliation. Provides that unless a candidate receives a majority vote in the primary and is elected, the top two candidates are the candidates in the general election. Provides that the primary election is to be held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year. Provides that the general election is to be held the first Saturday in December of an election year. Effective January 1, 2011.

EXPENDITURES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	(\$6,575,840)	\$0	(\$6,575,840)	(\$13,151,680)
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	(\$6,575,840)	\$0	(\$6,575,840)	(\$13,151,680)

REVENUES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	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

The proposed legislation reduces the number of congressional elections from three elections (1st party primary, 2nd party primary, and general) to two elections (primary election and general election), thereby reducing election expenses \$6.6m in years when congressional elections would be held. The legislation provides for an open primary system for election of U.S. congressmen with candidates and voters participating in the primary election without regard to party affiliation. The Secretary of State estimates the maximum cost for each statewide election to be approximately \$6.6m. The estimate for the maximum cost assumes all precincts would be opened and that a full complement of poll commissioners (the maximum number allowable under current law) would be employed. Congressional elections occur every two years and are scheduled in the fall of even numbered years (2010, 2012, 2014). The legislation would have no impact on the upcoming congressional elections scheduled during the fall of 2010 due to the proposed effective date of January 1, 2011. The highest cost to date for a statewide election is slightly more than \$5.8m, the cost for the 2008 presidential election.

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
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change

House
 6.8(F) >= \$100,000 Annual SGF Cost
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease

Robert E. Hosse
Robert E. Hosse
LFO Staff Director