

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



Fiscal Note On: **HB 296** HLS 14RS 515  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 18, 2014 9:32 AM	<b>Author:</b> CONNICK
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Secretary of State	<b>Analyst:</b> Stephanie C. Blanchard
<b>Subject:</b> Automatic recount in elections	

ELECTIONS OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1

Provides for an automatic recount in elections when the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots could make a difference in the outcome of the election

Present law provides relative to the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots. Provides that if the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots cast for all candidates for an office could make a difference in the outcome of the election for such office, the parish board of election supervisors shall recount the absentee by mail ballots.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the recount only takes place if requested by a candidate for such office. Requires the request to be filed with the clerk. Provides that the candidate requesting the recount shall be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with such recount which shall be payable to the clerk of court. Proposed law repeals present law. Applies proposed law to proposition elections in addition to candidate elections.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>						

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<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**

The proposed legislation may result in an increase in state and local costs for FY 15 and subsequent years. There are many variables in determining the increased costs and when they may occur since the number of elections that this legislation would apply to is indeterminable at this time. The number of ballots being counted also determines the increased costs.

Each Parish Board of Election Supervisors conducts absentee ballot counting with the assistance of parish board commissioners. These commissioners usually earn \$50 per ballot counting session but may earn \$100, if the number of ballots is expected to be high. If recounts are determined to be necessary due to this legislation, each Parish Board of Supervisors will probably call a special meeting. There are 5 board members and each would be paid \$50 per diem for this meeting. Secretary of State Elections Operations staff will likely assist with the recount and may incur hotel and travel reimbursement, as well as overtime pay. In addition, there may be a cost for security personnel at the recount location.

The state would initially pay for the recount expenses but would be reimbursed partially or fully from the local government holding the election, depending upon the number of local items on the ballot.

NOTE: The recount held for the Crescent City Connection Toll election cost the state \$4,610.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

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|---|--|---|
| <u>Senate</u>   | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u>   | <u>House</u>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}       | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {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} |   |

*Evan Brasseaux*  
**Evan Brasseaux**  
**Staff Director**