

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



Fiscal Note On: **SB 164** SLS 16RS 367  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 28, 2016 1:06 PM	<b>Author:</b> PETERSON
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Secretary of State	
<b>Subject:</b> Absentee by Mail Balloting	<b>Analyst:</b> Zachary Rau

VOTERS/VOTING EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Allows any registered voter to vote absentee by mail without rendering a reason for requesting an absentee ballot. (8/1/16)

Proposed law repeals present law providing reasons for which a registered voter can request an absentee by mail ballot. Proposed law further provides that any person qualified to vote who expects to be out of the parish on election day may vote absentee by mail.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</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><u>\$0</u></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 law will result in a one-time increase of approximately \$260,000 for technology acquisitions in FY 17 and a recurring expenditure increase of an indeterminable amount in FY 17 and subsequent fiscal years for ballot mailings as explained below. This bill repeals provisions giving requirements registered voters must meet in order to request an absentee by mail ballot and allows any person who will be out of the parish the ability to request an absentee ballot.

The Secretary of State anticipates the need to update document scanners in 26 parishes at a cost of \$10,000 per scanner, a total one-time expenditure increase of \$260,000, to handle the scanning of the increased volume of absentee ballots. The department reports that all scanning of absentee by mail ballots occurs on election night and that the updated scanners are necessary to maintain current election result reporting timelines without delays.

The Secretary of State anticipates a 20% to 30% increase of absentee ballot requests as a result of the proposed law based upon outcomes in other states resulting from similar legislation. However, the increase of absentee ballot requests resulting from the proposed legislation and the increased expenditures associated with them are indeterminable. For reference, in FY 15 the Secretary of State received 23,947 absentee by mail ballot requests. An increase between 20% and 30% would result in an addition of between 4,790 (23,947 absentee ballots \* 20%) and 7,184 (23,947 absentee ballots \* 30%) absentee ballots statewide. Currently the department mails absentee ballots at a cost of \$1.28 per ballot. An increase of request volume between 20% and 30% based upon the historical total of 23,947 absentee ballot requests would increase costs for the department between approximately \$6,131 (4,790 additional ballot requests \* \$1.28/ballot) and \$9,196 (7,184 additional ballot requests \* \$1.28/ballot).

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

Senate Dual Referral Rules House

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| <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} |

*Evan Brasseaux*  
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**Staff Director**