



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 286** HLS 21RS 864
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 24, 2021	1:55 PM	Author: JONES
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State		
Subject: Extends Early Voting by Four Days		Analyst: Patrice Thomas

VOTERS/VOTING OR +\$816,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Extends the period for early voting prior to election day

Present law provides for early voting for a period from 14 to 7 days before an election day, except on holidays and Sundays.
Proposed law provides for early voting from 18 to 7 days before an election day.

EXPENDITURES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$816,000	\$1,224,000	\$1,428,000	\$1,224,000	\$816,000	\$5,508,000
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	\$816,000	\$1,224,000	\$1,428,000	\$1,224,000	\$816,000	\$5,508,000

REVENUES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	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

Proposed law will increase SGF expenditures by \$816,000 in FY 22 within the Secretary of State and an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures within Registrars of Voter office as the result of adding four (4) days to the early voting period. Under present law, early voting is 14 to 7 days before an election. The proposed law extends the early voting from 18 days to 7 days before an election day. During the early voting period, every Registrar of Voters must remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. By extending the early voting period an 4 additional days, the proposed law would increase overtime and travel expenses for Election Operations Division staff within the Secretary of State (SOS) as well as overtime expenses for Registrars of Voters and election commissioners hired to assist with early voting.

Based on actual costs from the statewide November 2020 election, the cost per day of early voting would be \$102,000, which includes the average overtime cost per day for Registrar of Voters (\$37,067), election commissioners (\$47,690), and staff within the SOS's Election Operations Division (\$7,345 for overtime and \$9,897 for travel). The cost of 4 days of early voting would be \$408,000 (\$102,000 x 4 days) for statewide elections. Non-statewide elections would result in expenditures of approximately half of a statewide election, or \$204,000 (\$51,000 x 4 days). Under this proposed measure, the total cost for adding 4 days to the early voting period is \$408,000 for statewide elections and \$204,000 for non-statewide elections.

Below is a projected breakdown of cost for the additional days of the early voting period per fiscal year:

- FY 22 - \$816,000 = 4 non-statewide elections (4*\$204,000)
- FY 23 - \$1,224,000 = 2 statewide elections (2*\$408,000) and 2 non-statewide elections (2*\$204,000)
- FY 24 - \$1,428,000 = 3 statewide elections (3*\$408,000) and 1 non-statewide elections (1*\$204,000)
- FY 25 - \$1,224,000 = 2 statewide elections (2*\$408,000) and 2 non-statewide elections (2*\$204,000)
- FY 26 - \$816,000 = 4 non-statewide elections (4*\$204,000)

Note: The SOS reports the proposed law will compress the timeline between the primary and general election needed to complete programming and ballot tasks. For general elections, there would not be enough time to program, proof, print, ship, test, seal, and prepare for the early voting period using current procedures.

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}

Alan M. Boxberger
 Alan M. Boxberger
 Staff Director