



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 352** HLS 22RS 887
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

Date: March 7, 2022 4:13 PM	Author: LANDRY
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Prepaid Postage on Absentee by Mail Ballots	

VOTERS/VOTING OR +\$861,754 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to prepaid postage on absentee ballots

Present law provides for absentee voting by mail procedures and rules. Under present law, the mailed ballot shall contain a ballot envelope and a return envelope. Proposed law provides that the return envelopes have prepaid postage.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$861,754	\$831,754	\$831,754	\$831,754	\$831,754	\$4,188,770
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>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$861,754	\$831,754	\$831,754	\$831,754	\$831,754	\$4,188,770

REVENUES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in a recurring expenditure of \$831,754 SGF in FY 23 and subsequent fiscal years as well as a non-recurring expenditure of \$30,000 SGF in FY 23. Proposed law would require the Secretary of State (SOS) to provide paid postage for absentee vote by mail ballots. A mailed ballot will be sent to the voter in an envelope containing a ballot envelope and a postage paid return envelope.

To implement proposed law, the SOS anticipates a one-time expenditure of \$30,000 to order new envelopes that include prepaid postage in the design and the associated shipping costs for the new envelopes (approximately \$0.03 per envelope). In addition, the SOS estimates a recurring expenditure of \$831,754 for the paid postage. The SOS estimates that 173,282 voters will require absentee by mail voting ballots for each election. This estimate is based on the population of voters over 65 (150,680), who automatically receive an absentee ballot, and an additional 15% (22,602 = 150,680 x 0.15) to account for other eligible absentee voters (e.g. temporarily absent, offshore, college student, hospitalized, etc.). Assuming there are four (4) elections in a year, this requires the SOS to send out approximately 693,128 (173,282 x 4) ballots annually. The cost of return postage for each envelope is estimated to be \$1.20.

Expenditure Breakdown

693,128 absentee by mail voters (for 4 elections)
 x \$1.20 return postage cost
\$831,754 Costs for FY 24 and subsequent fiscal years
 + \$30,000 one-time expenditure for new envelopes
\$861,754 Costs for FY 23

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate
 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}

Evan Brasseaux

Evan Brasseaux
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer