

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 4** HLS 26RS 292
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 2, 2026 10:34 AM	Author: MCMAKIN
Dept./Agy.: Legislature	Analyst: Julie Silva
Subject: Constitutional Convention	

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides for calling a constitutional convention

Proposed law provides for a constitutional convention to draft a new state constitution. The convention will convene on 12/29/26 for an organizational meeting. Provides for 93 delegates as follows: 83 elected delegates and 10 delegates appointed by the governor. Election of delegates will take place during the open primary election scheduled for 11/03/26. A runoff, if necessary, will take place during the open general election scheduled for 12/12/26. Delegates and staff are subject to ethics laws, public records laws, and the criminal code, with any vacancies filled by appointment. The convention has authority to frame a new constitution, subject to certain limitations. Provides that an executive committee is to handle the convention's organization, staff, budget, and committees, with the legislature providing funding and the convention being subject to review by the legislative auditor. Prohibits a delegate from accepting compensation outside of per diem for work performed as a delegate to the convention. Requires the convention to submit to the governor the proposed constitution by 10/29/27 and for the proposal to be voted on by the electorate at the 2027 gubernatorial general election scheduled for 11/20/27.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation will result in an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures. Per diem costs for 93 delegates are anticipated to total \$16,554 (93 x \$178) per day of the convention. Total costs will be dependent on the number of days delegates meet, the number of delegates in attendance on each meeting day, and the actual per diem rates in effect at the time the convention is held. For the purposes of this fiscal note, the current per diem rate of \$178 per day is used, though the rate may change prior to the start of the convention. After the initial meeting on 12/29/26, delegates are required to meet at least once per month between January 2027 and September 2027 (a minimum of 10 days). The full convention is scheduled to meet from 9/30/27 - 10/29/27, for a total of 30 days. Assuming a minimum of 40 working days, the per diem cost for delegates is expected to total \$662,160.

In addition to per diem, delegates will be eligible to receive travel allowances, as provided to members of the legislature. Currently, the reimbursement rate for mileage is \$0.725 per mile. Actual expenditures for travel are dependent on the distance delegates travel to Baton Rouge, the number of times they must make the trip, and the actual reimbursement rate for mileage in effect at the time of the convention.

The Legislative Auditor indicates the cost of providing an audit of the financial books and records of the constitutional convention is estimated to cost between \$20,000 to \$30,000; however, the actual cost depends on the scope of the audit.

The Ethics Administration indicated there could be additional postage costs associated with mailing notice of delinquency letters if delegates fail to file or fail to file timely any disclosure statements required. Any increase in postage costs will likely be absorbed by the agency.

Proposed legislation calls for the election of parish delegates at the 11/03/26 election. This date is currently scheduled as a statewide open primary election. If needed, the runoff election date, 12/12/26, is currently scheduled as a statewide open general election. The proposed constitution would be voted on by the electorate at the statewide gubernatorial general election scheduled for 11/20/27. SOS budgets for statewide open elections as regular practice, and any costs associated with necessary elections will be absorbed within the agency's budget.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Candidates who qualify for the election as constitutional delegates are subject to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, and all convention delegates are subject to the Code of Governmental Ethics. As a result, any violations may result in fees or fines collected by the Board of Ethics. If any fees and fines are imposed, they will be deposited into the SGF.

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}

Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer