



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

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

Date: April 2, 2026	11:00 AM	Author: MCMAKIN
Dept./Agy.: Legislature		
Subject: Constitutional Convention		Analyst: Julie Silva

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

Proposed constitutional amendment provides for a convention to draft a new state constitution, convening on 4/10/28 for an organizational meeting. The convention will have 93 delegates: 83 elected and 10 appointed by the governor. Elections will occur during the open primary on 3/25/28, with the highest vote-getter elected; ties will be resolved by a public drawing of lots within one week of official results. Candidates from districts where Public Service Commission commissioners are elected are considered state candidates and must qualify with the Secretary of State, paying a \$450 fee plus a \$25 fee for the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund. Delegates and staff are subject to ethics, public records, and criminal laws, with vacancies filled by appointment. The convention may frame a new constitution within certain limitations and will have an executive committee to manage organization, staff, budget, and committees, with legislative funding and oversight by the legislative auditor. Delegates may receive only per diem and travel compensation. The proposed constitution must be submitted to the governor by 10/15/28 and to voters at the open general election on 12/16/28.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$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.	\$0	INCREASE	SEE BELOW	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	INCREASE	\$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 4/10/28, committees are to meet in accordance with the schedule adopted by the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, between April 2028 and September 2028. The full convention is scheduled to meet from 9/16/28 - 10/15/28, for a total of 30 days.

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 3/25/28 election. This date is currently scheduled as a statewide primary election. The proposed constitution would be voted on by the electorate at the statewide gubernatorial general election scheduled for 12/16/28. 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

The proposed amendment is expected to generate \$475 in qualifying fees per candidate, with \$450 deposited as general qualifying revenue and \$25 dedicated to the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund. The total revenue received as a result of this requirement will be dependent on the number of candidates who qualify. 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.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<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}


Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer