

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



Fiscal Note On: **SB 44** SLS 15RS 365  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 10, 2015 11:22 AM	<b>Author:</b> PETERSON
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> State	<b>Analyst:</b> Zachary Rau
<b>Subject:</b> Voter Registration of Unregistered Persons Over the Age of	

VOTERS/VOTING OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides for licensed drivers over the age of 18 to be registered as electors by the secretary of state. (8/1/15)

Present law provides that a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections made by an applicant 18 years or older also serve as an application for voter registration unless specifically declined.

Proposed law requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to deliver to the secretary of state a list of all licensed drivers over the age of 18.

Proposed law requires the secretary of state to send a postcard to all licensed drivers over the age of 18 that are not registered to vote offering them the opportunity to register as a voter, choose a political party affiliation, or decline to register to vote.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</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>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</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>\$0</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 legislation will result in an indeterminable increase in state general fund expenditures for the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State estimates costs for the initial registration of the program to total \$300,000 (\$36,000 in development costs, \$187,000 for the initial printing/mailing, \$77,000 for return postage on the initial mailing with the expectation that half of the postcard recipients will respond). Mailings of voter registration materials will occur on a quarterly basis. Initial mailing costs are derived from a similar mailing the Secretary of State conducted in 2014, when 585,792 potentially eligible but unregistered voters received registration mailings. Of the 585,792 persons who received the initial registration mailings in 2014, 35,098 have registered to vote as of February 26, 2015, leaving 550,694 potentially eligible but unregistered voters in LA.

The average cost for postage in the 2014 registration mailing was \$0.34 per card. The estimated number of potentially eligible voters (550,694) multiplied by the average cost of postage (\$0.34) totals approximately \$187,000. The \$77,000 in return postage costs is derived from the assumption that half of the mailings will be sent back to the Secretary of State with prepaid return postage costing \$0.28 per mailing. The \$36,000 in development costs is for a contract with GCR Inc. to update the Secretary of State's voter registration software at rate of \$100 per hour for an estimated 360 hours.

The Secretary of State will incur an expenditure increase each year related to the proposed legislation in terms of printing materials for choosing a political party or opting out of voter registration, mailing the materials and paying for return postage on a quarterly basis. The magnitude of these costs will vary to the extent that citizens over the age of 18 years obtain a driver's license without registering to vote and to the extent that citizens over the age of 18 are responsive to the mailings each quarter. To the extent the number of registered voters increases in LA, expenditures related to this program will fall over time. It is reasonable to assume that costs associated with this program will exist for its duration due to potentially eligible citizens not responding to the mailings and new persons over the age of 18 years obtaining driver's licenses without also registering to vote every year. **(Continued on Page 2)**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

- |  |                            |       |  |
|--|----------------------------|-------|--|
| Senate   | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | House | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H} |                            |       | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {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**

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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

The Department of Public Safety anticipates a one-time cost of \$3,246 in FY 16. The anticipated cost is derived from the projected need of 100 overtime hours for an IT Programmer Analyst III for Unisys mainframe programming in order to provide the necessary information to the Secretary of State on a quarterly basis. The cost is due to a per hour overtime rate of \$32.00 for 100 hours, plus related Medicare costs of \$46.00 (\$3,200 x 1.45%), creating a total of \$3,246. The Legislative Fiscal Office believes that any additional IT work associated with this legislation will be incremental in nature, and that the Department can potentially accomplish these tasks utilizing existing SGF resources and budget authority. To the extent that numerous pieces of legislation are enacted that require additional programming efforts, the Department may require SGF resources.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}

6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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