

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 1131** HLS 26RS 1372
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 13, 2026 7:06 PM	Author: MARCELLE
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	
Subject: Voter Maintenance, Data Sharing, and Reporting	Analyst: John McKay

ELECTIONS OR +\$7,038,346 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to voter registration

Proposed legislation prohibits the Secretary of State from transmitting sensitive data to any federal agency unless required by federal law or court order or provided for in a written intergovernmental agreement posted on the Secretary of State's website for not less than thirty days prior to transmission. Proposed law requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a statewide voter status notification system, which shall provide automated notification to registered voters. Proposed legislation creates the Louisiana Voter Data Transparency Task Force within the Secretary of State and requires it to meet quarterly to review voter maintenance reports published pursuant to proposed law and to submit an annual report to the House and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee no later than February 1st of each year. Proposed legislation requires the Legislative Auditor to conduct annual compliance audits of voter list maintenance procedures and report the findings to the legislature. Proposed law provides that no registrant's registration shall be canceled, and no registrant shall be placed on the inactive voter list, solely due to failure to vote in any election or for any period of inactivity.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$7,038,346	\$7,000,846	\$7,000,846	\$7,000,846	\$7,000,846	\$35,041,730
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	\$7,038,346	\$7,000,846	\$7,000,846	\$7,000,846	\$7,000,846	\$35,041,730

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation will result in an increase in SGF expenditures of approximately \$6.9 M annually within the Secretary of State and \$100,000 in FY 27 and \$62,500 annually thereafter within the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Secretary of State (SOS)

Proposed legislation requires the Secretary of State to notify each affected voter by first-class mail, email, SMS text message, and automated telephone call if available, at least 30 days before sensitive voter data is transmitted to a federal agency. If immediate transmission is required by court order or federal directive, notice shall be provided within 30 days after transmission unless prohibited by the court order or federal directive.

The Secretary of State reports that the annual data transmission to the federal SAVE database would include data for all registered voters in Louisiana. As of 4/01/26, there were 2,964,692 registered voters in the state. The estimated expense associated with notification of voter data transmission is as follows:

<u>Notification Method</u>	<u>Cost/Voter</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
First Class Mail	\$0.99	\$2,935,045
Electronic Mail	\$0.00015	\$445
Short Message Service	\$0.01002	\$29,706
Automated Telephone Notice	\$0.01300	<u>\$38,541</u>
		\$3,003,737

In addition, proposed legislation requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a statewide voter status notification system that notifies registered voters of key changes affecting their registration, including address confirmation requirements, placement on the inactive voter list, risk of registration cancellation, and actual cancellation of registration. The system shall deliver notifications through multiple channels, including first-class mail, email, SMS text message, and automated telephone calls if available. It shall provide an initial notice within five business days of an applicable event, a second notice within 30 days, and a third notice at least 60 days before cancellation, and a voter's registration may not be canceled until at least 90 days have passed from the initial notice. The Secretary of State shall also provide voters with clear instructions for updating or verifying their registration online, by mail, or in person.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO]

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"/> 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



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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For illustrative purposes, the number of voters who would have qualified to receive notices in 2025 was 1,294,488, with each assumed to receive three notices.

<u>Notification Method</u>	<u>Cost/Voter</u>	<u>Single Notification Cost</u>	<u>Maximum Notification Costs</u>
First Class Mail	\$0.99	\$1,281,543	\$3,844,629
Electronic Mail	\$0.00015	\$194	\$583
Short Message Service	\$0.01002	\$12,971	\$38,912
Automated Telephone Notice	\$0.01300	<u>\$16,828</u>	<u>\$50,485</u>
		\$1,311,536	\$3,934,609

Proposed legislation may result in a nominal increase in SGF expenditures to the Secretary of State to facilitate the Louisiana Voter Data Transparency Task Force. Proposed law requires the Secretary of State to provide staff to support the task force. Any administration costs are unknown but will likely be absorbed in the existing operating budget of the Secretary of State.

The task force consists of ten members, who shall serve without compensation. Task force members who are appointed by state or local governmental agencies are eligible for per diem costs and/or expense reimbursement for each meeting attended. The current legislative per diem rate is \$178 per day. In addition to per diem, certain members may be eligible for travel reimbursement in accordance with state travel regulations (PPM 49 - Travel Guide). The LFO assumes any meeting costs can be absorbed within the existing budgetary resources of the appointing organizations.

Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA)

Proposed legislation is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA). Proposed law requires LLA to conduct annual compliance audits of voter list maintenance procedures and report its findings to the legislature. The LLA estimates the cost of these audits at approximately \$100,000 (800 audit hours at \$125 per hour) in the first year and \$62,500 (500 audit hours at \$125 per hour) in the second and subsequent years.

The LFO is not able to independently verify the LLA's estimated time or expenditures; however, SGF expenditures are expected to increase and may vary depending on the final scope and methodology of the audit.

Overview

	FY 27	FY 28 and Future FYs
Secretary of State		
Notification of Transmission of Sensitive Voter Data	\$3,003,737	\$3,003,737
Statewide Voter Status Notification System	\$3,934,609	\$3,934,609
LA Voter Data Transparency Task Force	\$0	\$0
LA Legislative Auditor (LLA)		
Annual Compliance Audits of Voter List Maintenance	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$62,500</u>
Total	<u>\$7,038,346</u>	<u>\$7,000,846</u>

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}


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