

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



Fiscal Note On: **HB 4** HLS 26RS 292

Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 12, 2026	9:04 AM	<b>Author:</b> MCMAKIN
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Legislature		<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva
<b>Subject:</b> Constitutional Convention		

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION RE INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
Provides for calling a constitutional convention

Proposed legislation provides for a constitutional convention to draft a new state constitution, convening on 4/10/28 with 93 delegates: 83 elected and 10 appointed by the governor. Delegate elections will occur during the open primary election on 3/25/28, with two delegates elected from each Senate district and one delegate elected from each PSC district. Delegate candidates will pay qualifying fees ranging from \$325 to \$475, depending on office sought. Delegates and staff are subject to ethics, public records, open meetings, and criminal laws, with vacancies filled by appointment.

The convention will operate through an executive committee responsible for organization, staffing, budgeting, and committees, with legislative funding and oversight by the legislative auditor. Prior to the convening of the 2027 RS, the House and Senate governmental affairs committees, meeting jointly, are required to propose rules of procedure for legislative consideration through a concurrent resolution. Delegates may receive per diem and travel compensation associated with convention activities. The proposed constitution must be submitted 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.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	<b>INCREASE</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed legislation will result in an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures. Based on the current per diem rate of \$178, estimated per diem costs total approximately \$4,450 per day in FY 27 for members of the House and Senate governmental affairs committees and approximately \$16,554 per day in FY 28 and FY 29 for delegates to the constitutional convention. Additional expenditures are anticipated for delegate travel reimbursements. The Legislative Auditor further estimates audit costs associated with the constitutional convention to range from approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000, depending on the scope of the audit.

The House and Governmental Affairs Committee and Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee are tasked with developing proposed rules and procedures governing the constitutional convention and adopting a schedule for convention proceedings prior to the start of the 2027 RS. The proposed rules are to be considered through a concurrent resolution during the 2027 RS. There are currently a combined 25 members on the two committees. Based on the current per diem rate of \$178, estimated per diem costs total approximately \$4,450 per meeting day if all committee members are in attendance. Total expenditures associated with the joint committee are indeterminable and will depend on the number of meeting days, the number of members in attendance, and the per diem rate in effect.

**Continued on page two.**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

The proposed legislation is expected to generate qualifying fee revenue in FY 28 from candidates for constitutional convention delegate positions. Candidates for Senate district delegate positions are considered local candidates and will qualify with the clerk of court for the parish in which they are registered to vote, paying \$325, consisting of a \$300 qualifying fee and a \$25 fee dedicated to the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund. The \$300 qualifying fee paid by Senate district candidates will be retained by the applicable clerk of court as local revenue, while the \$25 fee will be deposited into the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund. Candidates for PSC delegate positions are considered state candidates and will qualify with the Secretary of State, paying \$475, consisting of a \$450 qualifying fee and a \$25 fee dedicated to the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund. The \$450 qualifying fee paid by PSC candidates will be retained by the Department of State as SGR, while the \$25 fee will be deposited into the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund. Total revenue generated will depend on the number and type of candidates who qualify.

Candidates who qualify for election as constitutional delegates are subject to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, and 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 and 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**

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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**  
**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION Continued**

Dependent upon the schedule established by joint resolution, the constitutional convention will convene on 4/10/28 and thereafter operate in accordance with the rules and procedures adopted for the convention. Between April 2028 and September 2028, convention committees are anticipated to meet pursuant to the adopted schedule. The formal convention period is scheduled from 9/16/28 through 10/15/28, for a total of 30 days.

The 93 delegates will be eligible to receive per diem at the current rate of \$178 per day, for an estimated total of approximately \$16,554 per meeting day if all delegates are in attendance. Delegates will also be eligible to receive travel reimbursements as provided to members of the legislature. Total expenditures associated with delegate per diem and travel reimbursements are indeterminable and will depend on the final convention and committee schedule, the number of meeting days, the number of delegates in attendance, and the per diem and mileage reimbursement rates in effect at that time.

The Legislative Auditor indicates that the cost to audit the financial books and records of the constitutional convention is estimated to range from \$20,000 to \$30,000, depending on the scope of the audit.

The Ethics Administration indicates that there may be additional postage costs associated with mailing notices of delinquency if delegates fail to file, or fail to timely file, any required disclosure statements. Any such increase is expected to be absorbed within existing resources.

Proposed legislation provides for the election of parish delegates at the 3/25/28 election, which is currently scheduled as a statewide primary election. The proposed constitution would be submitted to the electorate at the statewide gubernatorial general election scheduled for 12/16/28. The Secretary of State budgets for statewide elections in the ordinary course of business; therefore, any costs associated with these elections are expected to be absorbed within the agency's existing budget.

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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**Deputy Fiscal Officer**