

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 598** HLS 16RS 493
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 19, 2016 3:17 PM	Author: SMITH, P.
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State	Analyst: Zachary Rau
Subject: Voter Registration for Felons Not Under Confinement	

VOTING/REGISTRATION OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to registration and voting by a person convicted of a felony

Present law prohibits persons under orders of imprisonment for conviction of a felony from registering to vote. Present law provides that "order of imprisonment" includes a sentence of confinement (suspended or not), probation with or without supervision, and parole. Proposed law prohibits persons confined in a correctional facility from registering to vote, but allows persons on parole, probation, and with suspended sentences to register. Proposed law provides that the Secretary of State shall suspend voter registrations of convicted felons confined to a correctional facility only. Proposed law states that convicted felons may register to vote or have an existing registration reinstated upon providing documentation from a corrections official that they are no longer required to be confined to a correctional facility. Proposed law provides that convicted felons released from a correctional facility be advised of their right to register as a voter.

EXPENDITURES	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	\$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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law allows convicted felons not under order of confinement to register as voters in Louisiana. The Secretary of State indicates a one-time expenditure increase associated with implementation of the proposed legislation, but anticipates being able to absorb the increase utilizing existing contracts and resources.

To implement provisions of the proposed legislation, the Secretary of State will update voter registration reports, as well as its internal process for filtering voter registrations for felons to exclude persons under order of imprisonment only. In addition, the department will update webpages and online voter registration forms to reflect the eligibility of convicted felons under orders of supervision to register as voters. To complete these projects, the department will contract these services to GCR Inc., at a cost of \$100 per hour for approximately 280 hours, resulting in a total estimated expenditure of \$28,000. The Secretary of State anticipates this cost will be absorbed by the department's current contract with GCR Inc. To the extent multiple pieces of legislation are enacted that require GCR Inc.'s services, the Secretary of State may require additional SGF resources.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State reports that it would need to update its paper voter registration applications and the Voter Bill of Rights to reflect the inclusion of persons under orders of supervision being eligible for voter registration. In addition, the department will alter forms for voter registration at polling locations on election day. The department will also conduct training at offices and locations where voter registration occurs to reflect changes to present law within the proposed legislation. The department reports that costs associated with updating these documents is indeterminable, but anticipates being able to absorb the expenses within their existing budget authority. To the extent numerous pieces of legislation are enacted which require the Secretary of State to incur additional costs to its budget, the department may require additional SGF resources.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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| <u>Senate</u> | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H} | <input 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} | |

Evan Brasseaux
Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director