

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4243H.04P
 Bill No.: Perfected HCS for HB Nos. 2387 & 2480
 Subject: Elections; Federal - State Relations
 Type: Original
 Date: April 8, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions for elections.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0

*Costs of approximately \$9 million in March 2028 (FY2028) for holding a Presidential Preference Primary Election.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§115.123, 115.351, 115.755, 115.758, 115.761, 115.765, 115.767, 115.770, 115.773, 115.776, 115.785, 115.789 and 115.904 - Reinstates the Presidential Preference Primary

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state this bill would reinstate the presidential preference primary election which was previously held in March of any presidential election year. The projected impact is estimated at up to \$9 million in FY 2028, based on the cost of past primary and general election reimbursements.

As this election is scheduled for the Tuesday following the first Monday of March, it will coincide with the municipal primary elections held by charter counties, so proportional cost sharing may reduce the state's obligations for this election.

Oversight notes section 115.785 states all costs of a presidential preference primary shall be paid by the state. The payment of election costs is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. However, if they assume that the presidential preference primary were to be fully appropriated as it has been in years past, SOS anticipates a cost of \$9 million. Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, a \$9 million cost due to reinstating the requirement to hold a PPP. The next scheduled Presidential Preference Primary election would be in March 2028 (FY28). As this election is scheduled for the first Tuesday in March, it may coincide with the municipal primary elections held by charter counties (scheduled for the Tuesday following the first Monday of March); in this case, proportional cost sharing may reduce the state's obligations for this election. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost for reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2028.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1871 (2026), officials from the **SOS** noted many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

Oversight assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could require additional resources.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections** state adding the Presidential Preference Primary would cost about \$100,000 in years when it occurs.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **St. Louis City Board of Elections** stated the cost of a city-wide elections is over \$400,000.

Officials from **the St. Louis County Board of Elections Board** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organization.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Jackson County Election Board** assumed this proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective organization.

Oversight notes section 115.785 states all costs of a presidential preference primary shall be paid by the state, except that, pursuant to section 115.065, costs shall be shared proportionately by the state and any political subdivisions and special districts holding an election on the same day as any such primary. Therefore, the fiscal note will reflect the cost and reimbursement to local election authorities netting to zero.

In addition, Oversight assumes that local election authorities will incur election expenses that are not covered by the state. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a negative unknown impact in the fiscal note.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local election authorities were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

House Amendment 1 (HA 1)

HA 1 deletes the word “elections” and inserts “the presidential preference primary”. Oversight anticipates a \$9,000,000 cost to hold the Presidential Preference Primary Election.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost</u> – SOS (§115.785) Reimbursement of local election authority costs for PPP p.3	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Reimbursement</u> - Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Reimbursement of election costs p.4	\$0	\$0 or More than \$9,000,000	\$0
<u>Cost</u> – Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Holding PPP election p.4	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
<u>Cost</u> – Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Election expenses not covered by State p.4	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact on small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill reinstates the presidential preference primary election, to be held on the first Tuesday in March of each presidential election year.

A person who files to be included on the presidential primary ballot is not prohibited from filing as a party candidate for nomination to another office.

Specific deadlines for administrative actions by local election authorities and the Secretary of State that are necessary to hold the presidential preference primary are specified in the bill.

Candidates will be required to pay a filing fee to the state committee of the established political party on whose ballot they wish to appear. The amount of the fee will be determined by the state committee of each political party.

The conduct of the presidential preference primary and the count and canvass of the votes cast must conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for the primary election for state officers. All costs of the presidential preference primary, except for proportional costs for any political subdivision or special district holding an election on the same day, will be paid by the State.

The results of the presidential preference primary will be binding for the purpose of allocating and directing the votes of party delegates and alternate delegates. The political parties must allocate delegates in proportion to the certified statewide and congressional district results of the election, unless a national party rule requires an alternative allocation method, in which case the allocation must conform as nearly as possible to the election results.

Delegates will file a written pledge with the Secretary of State affirming that they will vote for the candidate to whom they are bound under for at least the first ballot. A delegate who fails to give or violates the pledge will be deemed to have resigned immediately. An alternate delegate pledged to the same candidate will fill the vacancy.

The Secretary of State must certify the results of the presidential preference primary and is authorized to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this bill.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Platte County Board of Elections

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St. Louis City Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections
Jackson County Election Board



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April 8, 2026



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