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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Harrison DATE TYPED 1/28/05 HB 261

SHORT TITLE Increase Bureau of Elections Staff SB _____

ANALYST Medina

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$200.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 261 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Office of the Secretary of State for the purpose of adding at least two permanent FTE within the Bureau of Elections whose primary duties will be to enforce the Election Code, including the Federal Voting Rights Compliance Act.

Significant Issues

The Bureau of Elections within the Office of the Secretary of State currently employs nine FTE.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

Continuing Appropriations

The LFC FY06 appropriation recommendation is balanced between revenues and expenditures and any increase in recurring funding must be offset by reductions in other areas of the recommendation. The Legislature must consider all priorities and funding requirements to find revenue to support this legislation.

While the agency states the appropriation is non-recurring, the LFC considers this a recurring appropriation because once the program is started, the expectation will be that it will continue in future years. The LFC strongly recommends not funding initiatives with non-recurring revenues as it will reduce revenues available in future legislative sessions.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

The Bureau of Elections will continue to operate at the current staffing level.

DXM/yr