

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 4188S.01I  
 Bill No.: SB 724  
 Subject: Elections; Secretary of State  
 Type: Original  
 Date: March 1, 2024

Bill Summary: This proposal creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Secretary of State's office.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Revenue	(Unknown greater than \$126,600)	(Unknown greater than \$257,363)	(Unknown greater than \$261,609)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(Unknown greater than \$126,600)</b>	<b>(Unknown greater than \$257,363)</b>	<b>(Unknown greater than \$261,609)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
General Revenue (SOS)	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>3 FTE</b>	<b>3 FTE</b>	<b>3 FTE</b>

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.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Section 115.642 – Creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Secretary of State's office.

The **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** states the bill would create an Office of Election Crimes and Security under the Secretary of State which would be responsible for reviewing and investigating all complaints of election law violations made under Chapter 115 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Actions taken by this new office would include maintaining a voter fraud hotline as well as issuing subpoenas for records pertaining to the review of complaints and possibly traveling to local election sites to investigate violations on an election day.

The exact scope of positions and resources to be granted to this office shall be established by and subject to the legislative appropriations process. However, the text of this bill states that the Secretary of State shall appoint a director of the office and that the office "shall employ investigators" (the plural implying that at least two investigators must be employed). New FTEs for one director at \$63,000 and two investigators at \$43,500 each will result in a total personnel cost of \$150,000 (plus benefits) beginning in FY 2025. Due to the delayed effective date of this bill, the six months' salary and benefits incurred in FY 2025 will require the SOS to make a supplemental budget request.

Additional costs relating to the operation of this office would include the cost of creating and/or maintaining a Voter Fraud Hotline as well as expenses incurred in the process of either issuing subpoenas or traveling for investigative purposes. The exact scope of these expenses is unknown.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. However, Oversight will present an unknown fiscal impact to the General Revenue Fund for the voter fraud hotline and subpoena/travel costs. Therefore, Oversight assumes SOS costs will be unknown greater than \$250,000 annually.

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. However, the AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation.

**Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Missouri Highway Patrol**, the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** and the **Office of the State Public Defender** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2025 (6 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Costs – SOS (\$115.642) P.3</u>			
Personal Service	(\$75,000)	(\$153,000)	(\$156,060)
Fringe Benefits	(\$51,600)	(\$104,363)	(\$105,549)
Voter Fraud Hotline	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
Subpoenas/Travel	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
<u>Total Costs - SOS</u>	(Unknown greater than \$126,600)	(Unknown greater than \$257,363)	(Unknown greater than \$261,609)
FTE Change - SOS	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b><u>(Unknown greater than \$126,600)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown greater than \$257,363)</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown greater than \$261,609)</u></b>
Estimated Net Effect FTE Change on the General Revenue Fund	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

### FISCAL DESCRIPTION

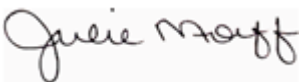
This act creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Secretary of State's office. The Secretary of State is responsible for appointing a director and investigators for the Office. The Office is given the following responsibilities and authority:

- The Office shall review complaints and conduct investigations into alleged violations of election laws;
- The Office shall respond to notifications and complaints alleging a violation of state election laws;
- The Office shall review notices and reports of alleged violations of state election law and conduct investigations as deemed necessary;
- The Office shall initiate independent inquiries and conduct investigations into alleged violations of state election law; and
- The Office shall oversee a voter fraud hotline.

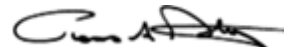
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State  
Attorney General's Office  
Missouri Highway Patrol  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Office of the State Public Defender



Julie Morff  
Director  
March 1, 2024



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
March 1, 2024