



State Fiscal Note for Bill Number: 2016-H-7191

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Friday, January 29, 2016

Date Due: Monday, February 08, 2016

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2016	N/A	FY 2016	N/A
FY 2017	Indeterminate	FY 2017	N/A
FY 2018	N/A	FY 2018	N/A

Explanation by State Budget Office: This bill is a joint resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment providing that any new highway or bridge tolling would require voter approval statewide in the next statewide general election and also in the municipalities affected.

Comments on Sources of Funds: The source of funds for expenditures relating to a ballot question on bridge tolling at a statewide general election for both statewide and municipal voter participation would be general revenue.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions: As established under Title 17 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Secretary of State is responsible for the preparation of federal, state, and local elections. Currently, the Elections and Civics Division of the Secretary of State: designs ballot layout and prepares and provides sample and polling place ballots for all federal, state and municipal elections as mandated by law; prepares and sends mail ballots via postal service; and prepares and distributes the Voter Information Handbook, and provides other vote assistance and education, including publication of numerous guides for candidates, election officials and voters.

Summary of Fiscal Impact: This legislation would only have a potential fiscal impact in FY 2017 when the 2016 general election will take place. The proposed ballot question for any new highway or bridge tolling would only result in a cost to the state if this additional question results in a two page ballot rather than a one page ballot. If this additional question does not result in an additional page and can be printed on the backside of the ballot there is no additional cost to the state of having the question on the ballot for the next statewide general election. In the 2014 statewide general election the Secretary of State ordered 1,158,110 pages for 750,000 ballots (voters) for .40 per page. The estimated cost if an additional page were required for each ballot/voter the cost could be approximately \$300,000.

The same issue is present for the localities, which would be impacted by the proposed ballot question. It is unknown at this time whether this referenda question may force other questions onto a second page and this would not be known until the cities and towns certify their local questions to the Secretary of State. This would occur in the upcoming months. Therefore, the fiscal impact of this legislation is indeterminate.

Budget Office Signature:

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