

SF3879 - 0 - Const. Amend. Allowing Public Debt for IT Systems

Chief Author: **Scott Dibble**
 Committee: **Capital Investment**
 Date Completed: **4/14/2026 10:07:14 AM**
 Agency: **Secretary of State**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact	X	

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Adam Bolling **Date:** 4/14/2026 10:07:14 AM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

This bill proposes that Article XI of the constitution be amended to permit the state to issue bonds and incur public debt to pay for public information technology systems, licenses, and infrastructure. Lines 2.12 through 2.19 describe how the question will be placed on the ballot.

Assumptions

There will be minor programming costs for the Office of the Secretary of State related to the constitutional amendment and more substantial programming, tabulating, printing, and publishing costs to county auditors in preparing the ballots to include the constitutional amendment. Pursuant to section 204B.29, subd.1, there must be more ballots printed than voted for the office in the last election; either ten percent more than the number expected to be cast, or 100 ballots for every 85 voters who voted for the same office in the last election. Because 2026 is a midterm election year, and in 2022 there were 2,525,873 persons who voted, a ten percent increase would require 2,778,461 ballots to be printed statewide.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Constitutional Amendment

Estimated Secretary of State programming costs for reporting votes cast for the proposed amendment, canvassing the results, and preparing example ballots:

One hour of programmer time @ \$150.00/hour: \$150

One hour of elections administrator time @ \$50/hour: \$50

The Secretary of State is able to absorb the costs identified as part of ongoing operational activities associated with the work of the office. These activities are not anticipated to displace any other work of the office.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Local Fiscal Impact

There are costs to local government related to the amendment, including for adding the amendment question to the ballot card, programming tabulating machines and counting votes cast, and printing and publishing notices of the constitutional

amendment.

The bulk of the costs are for adding the question to 2,778,461 optical scan ballots. It is estimated that there is a five cent per ballot cost for that function: 2,778,461 ballots @ \$.05/ballot/constitutional question = \$138,923.05

If several constitutional amendments are put on the ballot, local election officials may need to provide voters with a second ballot. The number of constitutional amendments that would require any specific jurisdiction to use a second ballot will vary depending upon the number of other races on the ballot. According to the vendor printing most of the ballots in the state, the average cost of printing a second ballot is 29 cents. If all counties had to print second ballots, this would mean printing an additional 2,778,461 ballots for an added cost of approximately \$805,753.69.

References/Sources

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