



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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March 3, 2021

Honorable James Burchett
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil
131-B State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 410 (LC 41 2899)

Dear Chairman Burchett:

This bill would transfer the regulatory authority of bingo from the director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to the Secretary of State (SOS). This authority includes issuing bingo licenses for eligible organizations, revoking licenses for violations, and promulgating rules and regulations. The transfer also requires GBI to provide all records for regulation of bingo to SOS.

This bill is anticipated to result in one-time costs of \$26,000 and annual recurring costs of at least \$49,572 for an additional employee in the Office of the Secretary of State. GBI expenditures would not decline because a single employee spends a relatively small portion of time on bingo regulation. License revenue collected is currently remitted to the treasury (\$12,900 in FY 2020) and would continue to be remitted under the bill.

Secretary of State Costs

SOS indicated that current analysts have no capacity to absorb additional responsibilities; therefore, an additional analyst would be needed at a cost of \$49,572 annually. Bingo-related duties would likely represent only a portion of the analyst's time. Additionally, one-time costs totaling \$26,000 would be incurred to modify an existing information system to track bingo license holders (\$25,000) and to modify the SOS website (\$1,000).

SOS could incur additional expenses for investigations, although such expenses are anticipated to be minimal since GBI has conducted only one investigation in the last four years. SOS staff noted that any investigation would likely occur outside of normal 40-hour work schedules and require overtime pay rates of \$54 per hour.

GBI Costs

This bill would have no fiscal impact on GBI. One employee spends five to ten hours per week on bingo licensing from January through September and 20 to 25 hours per week from October through December (estimated at \$15,547 in salary and benefits). The employee has other responsibilities unrelated to bingo regulation, so transferring the position to SOS would create deficiencies in other areas at GBI. It is unclear whether GBI received an appropriation or used existing resources when it became responsible for regulating bingo decades ago.

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/rg