



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 327 HLS 17RS 950
Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 16, 2017 11:23 AM Author: SCHEXNAYDER
Dept./Agy.: 23rd Judicial District Court Analyst: Sarah Futch
Subject: Judicial Building Fund

COURTS/DISTRICT EG +\$1,985,370 LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Establishes the Ascension Parish Courthouse Fund for the construction of a new courthouse for the Twenty-Third Judicial District Court and the Ascension Parish Court

Purpose of the bill: This bill establishes a judicial building fund for the construction of a new courthouse for the 23rd Judicial District Court in Ascension Parish and the Ascension Parish Court. The bill provides that for cases over which the 23rd Judicial District Court and the Ascension Parish Court have jurisdiction, the Ascension Parish Clerk of Court will impose and collect the following additional fees: (1) \$150 per initial filing of a civil suit; and (2) \$30 per filing of each additional pleading. Monies generated by the bill will be deposited into the Ascension Parish Courthouse Fund. The bill authorizes the use of cooperative endeavor agreements in conjunction with the design, construction, renovation, equipping, operation, and maintenance of the new Ascension Parish courthouse and renovation or conversion of any existing courthouse building. The fee increases in this bill are contingent upon recommendation from the Judicial Council that such court costs or fees meet the applicable guidelines in its 2018 Report to the Louisiana Legislature.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

Table with 7 columns: REVENUES, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Local fund expenditures may increase by an indeterminable amount as a result of this measure.

According to a representative of the 23rd Judicial District Court, the intention is to quickly start the design and construction process for the new courthouse, but it is unknown how long the process will take (for example, advertising and letting the project out for bids), what the courthouse will cost, and when the expenditures will occur. He expects that the new courthouse will be approximately the size of the Livingston Parish courthouse.

According to a representative from the Livingston Parish Clerk of Court's Office, the Livingston Parish courthouse was completed in 2014, is approximately 110,000 square feet, and cost approximately \$20M to design and build.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase local fund revenues by \$1,985,370 annually for the collection of increased civil filing charges. The filing charges will be increased by \$150 for initial filings of civil suits and \$30 for filing each additional pleading, which can include petitions, motions, orders, affidavits, etc. The 5 year annual average for each charge and fee was used to determine the estimated revenue to be collected. Each month, the monies collected by the clerk of court will be deposited into the Ascension Parish Courthouse Fund, handled by the Parish Department of Finance.

A representative from the Ascension Parish Clerk of Court's office provided the following revenue increase estimations: For initial filings, the 5 year annual average is 3,209, which would result in an annual collection increase of \$481,350 (\$150 initial filing fee x 3,209 filings). For additional pleadings, the 5 year annual average is 50,134, which would result in an annual collection increase of \$1,504,020 (\$30 additional pleadings fee x 50,134).

The estimated annual collections for new filing charges and additional pleadings fees is \$1,985,370 (\$481,350 increase due to initial filing fee + \$1,504,020 increase due to additional pleadings fee).

Senate Dual Referral Rules
[X] 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}
[X] 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}

House
[ ] 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
[ ] 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
Michael G. Battle
Manager, Advisory Services