



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 147** SLS 25RS 218
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 14, 2025	5:40 PM	Author: JACKSON-ANDREWS
Dept./Agy.: Tensas Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District		
Subject: Debt Issuance Authority		Analyst: Barry Kelly

LOCAL FINANCE OR SEE FISC NOTE LF EX Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to the issuance of bonds by the Tensas Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District. (gov sig)

Purpose of Bill: This bill removes several restrictions on debt issued by the Tensas Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District (District), specifically the \$15 million cap on outstanding bonds and notes, the 5% maximum interest rate allowed on bonds, the prohibition on selling bonds below par, and the requirement for bond payments to start within three years. It also repeals provisions that made these bonds a general obligation of the Tensas Parish Port Commission (Commission) and backed by the full faith and credit of Tensas Parish. Finally, it clarifies that the District incurs debt by acting through the Port Commission.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill expands the Tensas Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District's (District) authority to issue debt. As a result, this bill may increase District expenditures related to debt issuance to the extent that the District issues debt that it could not otherwise issue under current law. However, the exact timing and amounts of this impact, if any, is currently indeterminable.

The District has plans for two projects with current cost estimates totaling \$27 million (\$12 million for one + \$15 million for the other). The two projects that the District is planning to carry out are the High Speed Bulk Loading Facility Project and the Rail Reconstruction Project. Estimated dates for project initiation range from 2025 to 2027.

The District indicated that it may need to borrow funds to pay for these projects, which could potentially increase its total outstanding debt to a maximum of \$30 million (\$15 million above its current debt limit). While this borrowing is anticipated to occur within the next five years, the specific timing, amounts, and terms of the debt are unknown at this time, as all project details are not yet finalized. Therefore, if the District uses the expanded authority provided by this bill to borrow amounts greater than is allowed under current law, expenditures related to this debt (e.g. interest payments) would increase accordingly, but the exact fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminable at this time due to these uncertainties.

Removing the pledge of the full faith and credit of Tensas Parish appears to eliminate the parish's legal obligation to cover debt service payments should the District default on bonds issued under this revised statute. Based on information from the the District, it appears that this provision, historically, has not been triggered as the District, historically, has not had debt. Therefore, the repeal of this provision is not expected to have a direct material impact on the expenditures of Tensas Parish.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill expands the Tensas Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District's (District) authority to issue debt. As a result, this bill does not have a direct material impact on District revenue, as proceeds from issuing debt are not considered revenue. However, this bill may increase funds available for projects to the extent that the District issues debt that it could otherwise not issue under current law. It should be noted that a District official indicated that these projects are expected to generate revenue for the District once completed, but detailed current estimates are not available.

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| <p><u>Senate</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}</p> | <p><u>House</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}</p> | |
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