



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 597** HLS 25RS 770
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 5, 2025	8:43 PM	Author: CARTER, ROBBY
Dept./Agy.: District Courts		
Subject: Speedy Tort Claims Act		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

CIVIL/CLAIMS OR SEE FISC NOTE LF EX Page 1 of 1
 Enacts the Speedy Tort Claims Act

Proposed law enacts the Speedy Tort Claims Act; authorizes district courts to establish a speedy tort claims division in the judicial district courts; authorizes judicial district courts to establish a speedy tort claims division that has limited subject matter jurisdiction and a monetary jurisdiction limited to a maximum of \$50,000; provides for qualifications and selection of a magistrate judge by a majority vote of the judges of the judicial district and provides for the salary to be paid from the judicial expense fund of the judicial district court; establishes jurisdiction, venue and civil procedures applicable to the speedy claims division; provides that court costs for all filings in the speedy claims division to be reduced to one-half of the court costs applicable to all other filings for the district court in which the speedy claims division is located; allows for oral pleadings and expedited motions; provides for the use of guidelines for treatment and the medical reimbursement schedule established in the Louisiana Administrative Code applicable to workers compensation claims; provides for procedures for taking of writs and appeal of judgments to the courts of appeal, but prohibits appeals to the supreme court.

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					

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					

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures in district courts and clerks of court and an indeterminable decrease in Local revenues in clerks of court.

District Courts

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures to district courts, to the extent that they establish a speedy torts claims division and incur the associated expenses to their judicial expense funds for securing the requisite personnel associated with the establishment of those courts. District courts report that with the establishment of a "Speedy Torts Claims" division within district courts, judicial expense funds would be required to assume salary costs for magistrate judges for the division, with estimates of those salaries ranging as low as \$214,000, with higher estimates ranging at \$250,000. Additionally, some support personnel would likely have to be secured (judicial assistant, court reporter, and staff attorney) in those judicial districts with a higher volume of tort actions that meet the jurisdictional threshold within the proposed law. The exact fiscal impact to district courts is indeterminable, because the proposed law is permissive (not mandatory), and it is unknown the number of judicial districts that will decide to establish a "Speedy Torts Claims" division within their courts.

Clerks of Court

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures to clerks of court, to the extent that the establishment of "Speedy Torts Claims" courts results in an increase of motions processed, hearings expedited, and an allowance for oral pleadings for suits where the amount in dispute is \$2,000 or less. Proposed law may require clerks of court to secure additional staff for the processing of additional motions, and the allowance of oral pleadings may require new procedures to be implemented within the speedy torts claims division that necessitate securing additional staff. The exact fiscal impact to clerks of court is indeterminable, as is unknown the number of judicial districts that will establish a "Speedy Torts Claims" division within their courts, or the anticipated number of motions to be processed, hearings expedited, or oral pleadings allowed with enactment of the proposed law.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable decrease in Local revenues to clerks of court, to the extent that fees payable to clerks are reduced by one-half of the court costs applicable to all other filings for courts in which speedy claims division are located. The proposed law essentially reduces the fees collectible by clerks of court for tort suits, while keeping fees payable for other civil suits at their current levels, resulting in a significant loss of revenue to clerks of court. The exact fiscal impact to clerks of court is indeterminable, because it is unknown the number of suits that will be transferred to or the number of courts that will establish a "Speedy Torts Claims" division.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 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}


Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer