



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 196** SLS 25RS 405
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.: **W/ PROP SEN FLOOR AMD**
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 1, 2025	5:31 PM	Author: OWEN, ROBERT
Dept./Agy.: Judiciary/Corrections		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet
Subject: Homelessness Court Program/Unauthorized Camping		

COURTS EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to homelessness. (8/1/25)

Proposed law enacts the Homelessness Court Program Act; authorizes district courts to establish homelessness court programs, in one or more divisions of the district court to which participants are assigned; provides guidelines for participation in probation programs and for a defendant to have his conviction set aside or prosecution dismissed with successful completion of court-ordered alcohol and drug testing programs under the homelessness court; provides for probation revocation for unsuccessful completion of the homelessness court program; provides for the right to counsel for a defendant represented in the homelessness court; provides for considerations made by examiners, judges, and DAs regarding whether the homelessness court would be in the best interest of justice; requires a defendant to waive the right to a trial if accepted into the homelessness court; requires each homelessness court to develop a method of evaluation to measure its effectiveness, and compile and transmit those evaluations annually to the judicial administrator of the Supreme Court; creates the crime of unauthorized camping on public property and assesses penalties for violation as follows – on first conviction, imprisonment for no more than 90 days, or a fine of no more than \$100, or both, and on second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment for not less than one nor more than six months, or a fine of no more than \$500, or both; prohibits a political subdivision from authorizing a person to engage in public camping on public property, and allows political subdivisions to designate property to be used for a continuous period of not longer than one year, subject to conditions, and with certain standards and procedures; provides certain parties the authority to bring a civil action against the political subdivision to enjoin a violation of proposed law.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW					
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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures for local governing authorities if a person is convicted of unauthorized camping on public property. The exact fiscal impact of this legislation to local governing authorities is indeterminable, since it is not known how many people will be convicted and incarcerated in local facilities, nor the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions as a result of its potential enactment. The maximum imprisonment term at the local level is no more than six months.

Because this legislation creates a misdemeanor offense, these offenders will not be sentenced to the Department of Public Safety & Corrections - Corrections Services.

This bill may result in an indeterminable increase in state and/or local expenditures. The bill provides that each district court may authorize the establishment of a homelessness court program, which is permissive (and not mandatory). The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable since it is not known how many judicial districts will actually create these specialized court programs. The specific expenditures associated with the establishment of a homelessness court program are dependent upon the size and scope of the homelessness court. To the extent that the homelessness court involves hearings above the normal current court activity, the district courts will likely experience an increase in expenditures. However, such costs may be mitigated as it is possible that some of the cases that would have otherwise been heard in an existing division will now be transferred and heard in the homelessness court.

In addition, to the extent that clients of mental health, controlled substance, or other related treatment and rehabilitative services receive treatment at a state facility, there could be an indeterminable increase in any state and/or federal costs associated with such treatment. This bill provides that those who are eligible for and enroll in the homelessness court program may access a continuum of alcohol, controlled substance, mental health, suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services, which could result in an indeterminable increase in any state funded treatment programs that may collaborate with the homelessness court.

For the purposes of simplicity, the potential impact of this legislation is reflected above as SGF and local funds.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in local revenues as a result of convictions of unauthorized camping on public property. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation on local revenue is indeterminable, as the fines that would be imposed on those convicted are optional, and the amount of fines, if imposed, may vary. The potential revenue will accrue to the local governing authority.

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



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE]

Proposed law may result in an increase in workload in the Office of the Attorney General (AG) and local district attorneys (DAs), to the extent that the AG and DAs pursue civil suits to enjoin political subdivisions or municipalities for failure to adhere to certain conditions (security, sanitation, behavioral health, and prohibition against use of illegal substances) after designating certain property as available for use for a continuous period of no longer than one year. The exact fiscal impact to the AG and DAs is indeterminable, as it is unknown the number of instances in which the AG and DAs will pursue injunctions under the proposed law.

Additionally, along with political civil litigation pursued by AGs and DAs, local courts may experience an increased caseload associated with residents, business owners, and non-profit organizations who seek to pursue civil suits to enjoin political subdivisions or municipalities for failure to adhere to certain conditions (security, sanitation, behavioral health, and prohibition against use of illegal substances) after designating certain property as available for use for a continuous period of no longer than one year. The exact fiscal impact to Local funds expenditures by courts is indeterminable, as it is unknown the impact to caseload in local courts that will occur under the proposed law.

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