

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 527** HLS 26RS 816

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 30, 2026 9:33 AM	Author: MUSCARELLO
Dept./Agy.: District Court Judges, Judiciary, and Clerks	Analyst: Daniel Druilhet
Subject: Statewide Revision of Court Reporter Fees	

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS EG INCREASE LF EX See Note
Provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees

Current law provides for the duties of an official court reporter in judicial district courts; provides that in all civil and criminal cases, a fee not to exceed \$1.50 per 31-line page and \$0.25 per copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter; provides for varying court reporter fees; provides for varying proposed fee increases for various judicial district courts. Proposed law authorizes an official court reporter to certify a transcript utilizing an electronic signature provided he or she uses the platform authorized by judges of the jurisdiction where she is employed; repeals current law regarding fees for copies reported and transcribed and provides for a uniform court reporter fee schedule, and that the fee not exceed \$6 per 32-line page transcript and up to \$2 per page certified copy reported and transcribed; provides that fees may be set up to the statutory amount by a majority of judges and be retained by a court reporter as compensation in addition to the salary and taxed as court costs; provides that an electronic copy may be furnished with a certified copy upon request; provides that a salaried court reporter shall not in any case charge a sitting fee; provides for rates a court reporter may charge for an expedited transcript within differing time frames - (1) within 24 hours, two times the allowable rate; (2) within 48 hours, an additional \$3 per page over the allowable rate; (3) within five days, an additional \$1 per page over the allowable rate.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	

Annual Total

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	

Annual Total

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures if courts decide to increase fees assessed for each page reported and transcribed by court reporters. Fees for transcription and reporting are charged as costs of the case, and once paid to the Clerk of Court, those fees are then paid to the court reporter. To the extent that court reporters are allowed to increase fees charged for reporting and transcription (including in those instances in which expedited transcripts are requested), Local Funds expenditures will increase. The exact fiscal impact to Clerks of Court is unknown, as the number of cases transcribed and reported, and the number of certified copies of pages transcribed and reported varies from one judicial district to another.

For criminal indigent cases, many courts pay the transcript fees using Local Funds. To the extent judges decide to increase the fee for criminal indigent cases, there will be an increase in Local Fund expenditures. The exact fiscal impact to Local Funds revenue is indeterminable, because it is not known the number of cases that will be reported and transcribed, or the rates at which the majority of judges will choose to set the fees for transcription and reporting.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will likely result in an increase in Local Funds revenues, to the extent that courts increase the fees charged for reporting and transcription of civil and criminal cases. While some courts require fees to be paid directly to the court reporters, some Clerks of Court collect these fees and then remit them to the court reporter. In instances where the Clerk of Court collects these fees, there will be an increase in Local Funds revenues.

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