



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 823** HLS 26RS 208  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 3, 2026 12:01 PM	<b>Author:</b> KNOX
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Orleans Parish District Attorney	
<b>Subject:</b> Homeless Diversion Pilot Program	<b>Analyst:</b> Taylor Potter

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 Establishes a homeless diversion pilot program in Orleans Parish

**Purpose of the Bill:** This bill requires the Orleans Parish District Attorney to establish a Homeless Diversion Pilot Program, which may be operated internally or by a third-party vendor. At the discretion of the District Attorney, the program may be used to defer legal proceedings and provide eligible homeless defendants with probation and support services. Finally, the bill provides for the dismissal of charges upon successful completion of the program and a program evaluation to be submitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court annually.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**This bill may increase Orleans Parish District Attorney local fund expenditures by approximately \$170,000 in FY 2027, growing to an estimated \$366,000 by FY 2031, excluding indeterminable housing assistance costs. Additionally, Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC) State General Fund expenditures may increase, contingent upon supervision required. The fiscal impact on partnering state and local entities is indeterminable.**

The Orleans Parish District Attorney estimates serving an annual caseload of up to 100 participants will increase expenditures by \$170,000 in FY 2027 (partial-year implementation) and \$335,000 in FY 2028, with a 3% annual inflation increase thereafter. This increase includes costs for a new Coordinating Attorney (\$98,500 annually) for program oversight and court coordination, and a third-party vendor (\$236,500 annually) for evaluation, case management, and miscellaneous client expenses. These estimates exclude housing assistance, which could further increase costs by an indeterminate amount.

DPSC indicated that it may need to hire one to two additional probation officers to maintain standard caseload ratios per office to administer the probation-related provisions of the bill, at a cost of \$142,000 annually per officer for salary and benefits. Therefore, State General Fund expenditures may increase by \$142,000 to \$284,000 annually, depending upon whether DPSC would be required to provide probation for program participants and the level of supervision needed.

The bill requires the program include partnerships with public agencies and community organizations to provide participants with assistance such as job and housing assistance. The fiscal impact of this requirement on state and local expenditure is currently indeterminable as costs depend on the specific entities utilized, the type and volume of assistance provided, and the availability of existing funding streams to cover costs of such assistance. For example, the Louisiana Workforce Commission anticipates that it could provide job assistance at no additional costs, as this required service falls within its standard scope of operations.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.**

The Orleans Parish District Attorney's office indicated that the bill is unlikely to have a significant impact on local governmental revenue. Because the program specifically targets individuals experiencing homelessness, participants are presumed to be indigent and generally unable to pay standard fines, fees, or court costs. Therefore, diverting these individuals from traditional court proceedings is not expected to result in a material decrease of court revenue.

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

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