



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 502 HLS 19RS 825
Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 23, 2019 5:51 PM Author: EDMONDS
Dept./Agy.: 19th JDC Family Court; EBR Clerk of Court
Subject: Collection and Distribution of Court Costs in the 19th JDC Analyst: Steven Kraemer

COURTS/FAMILY EG SEE FISC NOTE LF EX Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to the collection and distribution of court costs by the clerk of court for the Nineteenth Judicial District

Purpose of Bill: This measure requires the Clerk of Court in the 19th JDC to place all sums collected/received (from cases on the Family Court docket) in to the Judicial Expense Fund for the Family Court for EBR on a monthly basis (before disbursements are made to other accounts). Also, the Clerk will have to submit to the Court a full accounting of all fees distributed in to the fund and the Family Court Judges may cause inspections of the Clerk's books and records regarding related collections and receipts. The bill also requires the Clerk's Office to reimburse the Family Court for administrative expenses incurred for proceedings conducted pursuant to R.S. 46:2134 (Domestic Abuse). Finally, the bill allows the Clerk to collect installment payments for court costs and transfer these collections to the Family Court's Judicial Expense Fund.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

Table with 7 columns: REVENUES, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase the Clerk's expenditures by \$20,000 initially (for computer upgrades) and \$6,000 annually thereafter (for equipment usage reimbursement to the Court). This bill may increase the Court's expenditures by a minimum amount annually (to pay for copies of records).

An official with the Clerk's Office indicated that there would be no additional costs to the Clerk or the Court to make existing collection and distribution records available to the Court for inspection. However, if the Court needed the Clerk to provide copies of these records, the Clerk may charge the Court \$1 per page. In addition, this official indicated that the Clerk does not currently distribute the court costs in installment payments, and would incur expenditures of at least \$20,000 to reprogram/change their computer system in order to do so.

An official with the Court indicated that the Clerk may be required to reimburse the Court \$6,000 annually for the Clerk's use of the Court's equipment related to proceedings pursuant to R.S. 46:2134.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase the Court's revenue by \$6,000 annually as reimbursement for equipment usage is received from the Clerk. Total governmental revenue related to court costs is not expected to change, as the bill only prioritizes the distribution of court costs.

An official with the Court indicated that the Clerk may be required to reimburse the Court \$6,000 annually for the Clerk's use of the Court's equipment related to proceedings pursuant to R.S. 46:2134.

This bill changes the priority and timing of court cost distribution to the Family Court. Court costs will now be distributed monthly by the Clerk, rather than when all costs have been collected (as is currently the practice). These monthly payments will be disbursed to the Family Court before payments are made to any other account.

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}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
Michael G. Battle
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