



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 715** HLS 24RS 805  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 8, 2024	11:28 AM	<b>Author:</b> CARTER, ROBBY
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Local Government in St. Helena Parish		
<b>Subject:</b> Creates The Parish Court for the Parish of St. Helena		<b>Analyst:</b> Jamie Mergist

JUDGES OR +\$166,520 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Creates a new parish court in St. Helena

**Purpose of Bill:** This bill creates the Parish Court for the Parish of St. Helena (Parish Court), providing for its jurisdiction, operations, and requirements for its judge and personnel.

**Note:** R.S. 13:61 requires Judicial Council approval for the creation of new judgeships for Parish Courts. R.S. 13:62 requires Judicial Council review and recommendation for the enactment of new court costs or fees. A Louisiana Supreme Court official indicated that the provisions of HB 715 regarding the creation of a new judgeship and new court costs have not undergone the processes required under these laws.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$111,700	\$166,520	\$166,520	\$166,520	\$166,520	\$777,780
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$3,717	\$7,434	\$7,434	\$7,434	\$7,434	\$33,453
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	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**This bill may increase state general fund expenditures by \$166,520 annually (\$111,700 for FY 2025) and statutorily dedicated expenditures by \$7,434 annually (\$3,717 for FY 2025). This bill may also increase local expenditures by an indeterminable amount.**

Based on information from various state and local entities, the impact of this bill on governmental expenditures may be:

(1) State Expenditures: A Louisiana Supreme Court official indicated that this bill may increase state general fund expenditures by \$109,640 annually (\$54,820 for FY 2025) and statutorily dedicated fund expenditures by \$7,434 annually (\$3,717 for FY 2025) for judge compensation.

(2) St. Helena Parish Police Jury: A Police Jury official indicated that this bill may increase police jury expenditures by \$300,000 annually to fund court operations. In addition, this official indicated that a new courthouse may be needed due to the lack of existing space for the court. The cost to build a new courthouse is indeterminable at this time.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**This bill may increase revenue for the Parish Court and decrease revenue for certain existing courts in St. Helena Parish, if cases typically handled by these existing courts are shifted to the Parish Court. The exact amount and timing of this impact is indeterminable, as it depends upon the number and timing of cases shifted.**

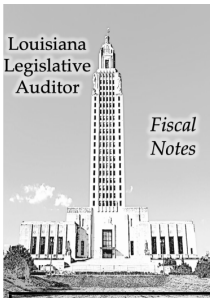
(1) 21st Judicial District Court: A 21st JDC official indicated that this bill may decrease JDC revenue by \$55,000 annually if all misdemeanors and 55% of civil cases, typically handled by the JDC, are shifted to the Parish Court.

(2) Municipalities of Montpelier and Greensburg: Municipal officials indicated that this bill would not impact municipal revenue if cases are handled by the mayors' courts in these municipalities. However, municipal revenue may decrease to the extent that cases are shifted from these mayors' courts to the Parish Court. The estimated annual revenue generated from cases handled by the mayors' courts is approximately \$160,000 for Montpelier and \$15,000 for Greensburg.

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}

*M. G. Battle*  
**Michael G. Battle**  
 Manager, Advisory Services



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 715 HLS 24RS 805
Bill Text Version: ORIGINAL
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 8, 2024 11:28 AM Author: CARTER, ROBBY
Dept./Agy.: Local Government in St. Helena Parish Analyst: Jamie Mergist
Subject: Creates The Parish Court for the Parish of St. Helena

CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

(Continued from Page 1)

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

- (3) 21st Judicial District Public Defender: A Public Defender official indicated that this bill may increase public defender expenditures by \$179,912 annually in FY 2025, \$168,666 annually in FY 2026, and \$189,843 annually by FY 2029 for additional staff and for ongoing and one-time office-related expenditures. This increase is expected to be paid from local revenue.
(4) St. Helena Parish Clerk of Court: A Clerk of Court official indicated that this bill may increase clerk of court expenditures by \$167,000 annually for additional staff and office-related expenditures.
(5) 21st Judicial District Attorney: A District Attorney official indicated that this bill may increase district attorney expenditures by \$122,012 annually in FY 2025, and further increasing to \$139,787 annually by FY 2029 for additional staff. This official indicated that local funding will cover the majority of these expenditures, with the state general fund contributing \$56,880 towards staffing costs.
(6) St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office: A Sheriff official indicated that this bill may increase sheriff expenditures by \$33,587 annually for additional staff.
(7) Municipalities of Montpelier and Greensburg: Municipal officials indicated that this bill may increase municipal expenditures by a combined total of \$2,927 annually for judge compensation.
(8) Local Election Expenditures: A Louisiana Secretary of State official indicated this bill may increase local election expenditures due to adding a judge to the ballot. The exact amount and timing of this increase is indeterminable as it depends upon the timing of the election and the number of items on the ballot. However, the maximum election cost that the parish would be responsible for paying may range from \$3,600 to \$36,000, depending on the election.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
[X] 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
[ ] 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
[X] 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}

Michael G. Battle
Manager, Advisory Services