

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 1253** HLS 26RS 4133

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.: **HB 454**

<b>Date:</b> May 10, 2026	2:09 PM	<b>Author:</b> BUTLER
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Parish Coroners Offices/Attorney General		<b>Analyst:</b> Anthony Shamis
<b>Subject:</b> Enact the Gracey Claire Rushing Act (Human Remains)		

**HUMAN REMAINS**

EG SEE FISC NOTE GF EX

Enacts the Gracey Claire Rushing Act to provide for documentation, notification, and communication in the handling and disposition of human remains and internal organs

Proposed law creates the Gracey Claire Rushing Act. Proposed law establishes an audit and communication protocol for the handling of remains and organs during autopsies and forensic investigations. This protocol ensures transparency, accountability, and respect for the deceased and their families by requiring documentation, timely notification of next of kin, and effective communication to prevent discrepancies, unauthorized retention, or mishandling of human remains. Proposed law requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement provisions of this legislation, including standardized forms. Failure of a forensic pathologist, designated expert, coroner or any other person or entity required to comply with this section, including the use of standardized forms, constitutes a violation subject to enforcement pursuant to proposed law. The Attorney General (AG) shall have primary authority to administer, investigate, and enforce provisions of this measure. The AG may impose administrative fines up to \$5,000 per violation and may seek injunctive relief or other appropriate civil remedies in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Effective January 1, 2027.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	

**Annual Total**

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	

**Annual Total**

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in local governmental expenditures associated with forensic pathologist costs. In addition, proposed law may increase workload within the Office of the Attorney General (AG) associated with administrative, investigative, and enforcement activities required to implement the provisions of the measure.

**Parish/Local Government (Local Funds):**

Information provided by the Louisiana Coroners Association (LCA) indicates that fines and penalties imposed on forensic centers and private pathology groups contracted by coroners to perform autopsies may increase the cost per autopsy. To the extent such costs are passed through by contracted providers, local governmental expenditures may increase. However, the LCA is currently evaluating the extent of any potential expenditure impact to parish coroners' offices and local governmental entities. Should additional information regarding estimated expenditures become available, this fiscal note will be updated.

**Office of the AG (SGF):**

The Office of the AG indicates that any additional administrative workload associated with the administrative, investigative, and enforcement requirements of the proposed law will be absorbed utilizing existing staff and resources within the Department of Justice.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in SGR revenues within the Office of the AG resulting from the collection of civil penalties associated with violations of the proposed law. In addition, civil penalties may be assessed on parish and local governmental entities for violations incurred by parish coroners' offices. The extent of any revenue impact to the Office of the AG and local governmental entities is unknown and will depend upon the number and severity of violations.

Proposed law authorizes the Office of the Attorney General to impose administrative fines of up to \$5,000 per violation and to seek injunctive relief or other appropriate civil remedies through a court of competent jurisdiction.

LCA reports that without a source of state funding to support any increased expenditures associated with increased forensic pathologist costs and potential civil penalties, parish and local governments would be required to identify, shift or create a financing mechanism to pay for increased costs. Any such impacts are speculative and cannot be estimated.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

*Alan M. Boxberger*

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**Legislative Fiscal Officer**