



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 131** HLS 14RS 111  
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 11, 2014 9:03 AM	<b>Author:</b> LOPINTO
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> District, Parish, and Juvenile Courts	<b>Analyst:</b> Misty Perry
<b>Subject:</b> Witness Fees	

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS EN INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Authorizes payment of witness fees to retired law enforcement officers or former law enforcement officers in certain cases

**Purpose of Bill:** This measure would require payment of witness fees to former or retired law enforcement officers who are required to be a witness in any criminal case or delinquency adjudication in any district or parish court or any court exercising juvenile jurisdiction. The witness fees would be paid from court cost and are \$50 each day per case, but cannot exceed \$150 per day. The retired or former law enforcement officer would be required to submit an application for payment of the fee as well as documentation verifying service as a witness to the governing authority of the parish. The governing authority of the parish would then be required to transmit payment within 60 days.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**There may be an increase in local government expenditures for district, parish and juvenile courts when retired or former law enforcement officers are required to testify as to events that occurred during their employment. According to the Louisiana Supreme Court's 2012 annual report, Louisiana has 71 district, parish, and juvenile courts. We polled three of these courts and were told the following:**

Caddo Parish Juvenile Court: According to an official with Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, a former or retired law enforcement officer has never been required to testify as to the events which occurred during his employment.

22nd Judicial District Court - Washington, St. Tammany Parishes: According to an official with the 22nd JDC, a former or retired law enforcement officer has been required to testify as to the events which occurred during his employment two times in the last 5 years.

19th Judicial District Court - East Baton Rouge Parish: According to a judge with the 19th Judicial District Court, a former or retired law enforcement officer has been required to testify as to the events which occurred during his employment approximately once every few years.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**There is no anticipated direct material impact on local government revenues as a result of this measure.**

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|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Referral Rules | <input type="checkbox"/> House | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}       |  |                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {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} |

**Joy Irwin**  
 Director of Advisory Services