



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 231 HLS 15RS 491
Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

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COURTS/COURT COSTS EG +\$11,520 LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Authorizes an increase in fees charged by court reporters in the 27th Judicial District Court

Purpose of Bill: This measure provides for an increase in fees charged by court reporters in the 27th Judicial District. In all civil and criminal cases, except indigent defender criminal cases, the fee will increase from \$2.50 per page to \$3.50 per page for the original transcript. Payments to court reporters also increase from \$2.25 to \$3.50 per 31 line page for indigent cases, with payment to be made from the criminal indigent transcript fund.

The 27th Judicial District court did not submit a proposal to the Judicial Review Council, as required by state law, to review their proposed increases in court costs. The Judicial Review Council provided a report dated March 15, 2015 to notify the Legislature of the results of their review of submitted proposals. This court reporter fee was not included in this report. The measure provides an effective date if and when the Judicial Council provides a recommendation in its 2016 report.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 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, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill will increase local expenditures by an estimated \$11,520 annually. Any increase in local revenue will be paid to court reporters. In addition to the \$1,920 revenue from the \$1 per page increase for civil and criminal cases, we estimate that 80% of transcripts are prepared for indigent criminal cases for which court reporters are to be paid an additional \$1.25 per page. The additional expenditure for the indigent criminal case transcripts comes from existing sources of revenue. (480 per year x 16 pages x \$1.25 = \$9,600) Total new expenditures may be \$9,600 + \$1,920 = \$11,520.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill will increase local revenue by an estimated \$1,920 annually. A representative of the 27th Judicial District Court provided that there has been an average of 50 transcripts per month averaging 16 pages each during the past six months. For purposes of estimating a potential increase in revenue, we are assuming that 20% (10 per month) of the total transcripts will be charged an additional fee of \$1.00 per page and 80% (40 per month) will be indigent criminal cases (where no revenue will be received). The additional \$1 per page will be collected for 10 transcripts each month, generating \$1,920 annually (120 per year x 16 pages x \$1 increase).

- Senate Dual Referral Rules House
13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}
13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}
6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {H & S}
6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
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