



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 327** HLS 17RS 950  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 10, 2017 5:06 PM	<b>Author:</b> SCHEXNAYDER
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> 23rd Judicial District Court	<b>Analyst:</b> Sarah Futch
<b>Subject:</b> Judicial Building Fund	

COURTS/DISTRICT OR +\$1,387,760 LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Establishes the Ascension Parish Courthouse Fund for the construction of a new courthouse for the Twenty-Third Judicial District Court and the Ascension Parish Court

**Purpose of the bill:** This bill establishes a judicial building fund for the construction of a new courthouse for the 23rd Judicial District Court in Ascension Parish and the Ascension Parish Court. The bill provides that for cases over which the 23rd Judicial District Court and the Ascension Parish Court have jurisdiction, the Ascension Parish Clerk of Court will impose and collect the following additional fees: (1) \$120 per initial filing of a civil suit; and (2) \$20 per filing of each additional pleading. Monies generated by the bill will be deposited into the Ascension Parish Courthouse Fund. The bill authorizes the use of cooperative endeavor agreements in conjunction with the design, construction, renovation, equipping, operation, and maintenance of the new Ascension Parish courthouse.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</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>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</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>\$1,387,760</u>	<u>\$1,387,760</u>	<u>\$1,387,760</u>	<u>\$1,387,760</u>	<u>\$1,387,760</u>	<b>\$6,938,800</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$1,387,760</b>	<b>\$1,387,760</b>	<b>\$1,387,760</b>	<b>\$1,387,760</b>	<b>\$1,387,760</b>	<b>\$6,938,800</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**Local fund expenditures may increase by an indeterminable amount as a result of this measure.**

According to a representative of the 23rd Judicial District Court, the intention is to quickly start the design and construction process for the new courthouse, but it is unknown how long the process will take (for example, advertising and letting the project out for bids), what the courthouse will cost, and when the expenditures will occur. He expects that the new courthouse will be approximately the size of the Livingston Parish courthouse.

According to a representative from the Livingston Parish Clerk of Court's Office, the Livingston Parish courthouse was completed in 2014, is approximately 110,000 square feet, and cost approximately \$20M to design and build.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**This bill may increase local fund revenues by \$1,387,760 annually for the collection of increased civil filing charges.** The filing charges will be increased by \$120 for initial filings of civil suits and \$20 for filing each additional pleading, which can include petitions, motions, orders, affidavits, etc. The 5 year annual average for each charge and fee was used to determine the estimated revenue to be collected. Each month, the monies collected by the clerk of court will be deposited into the Ascension Parish Courthouse Fund, handled by the Parish Department of Finance.

A representative from the Ascension Parish Clerk of Court's office provided the following revenue increase estimations:

For initial filings, the 5 year annual average is 3,209, which would result in an annual collection increase of \$385,080 (\$120 initial filing fee x 3,209 filings). For additional pleadings, the 5 year annual average is 50,134, which would result in an annual collection increase of \$1,002,680 (\$20 additional pleadings fee x 50,134).

The estimated annual collections for new filing charges and additional pleadings fees is \$1,387,760 (\$385,080 increase due to initial filing fee + \$1,002,680 increase due to additional pleadings fee).

Senate  
 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**  
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