



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 83 HLS 18RS 394
Bill Text Version: ENROLLED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 15, 2018 10:41 AM Author: COUSSAN
Dept./Agy.: 15th Judicial District Court Analyst: Jamie Mergist
Subject: Court Costs & Court Reporter Fees

COURTS/COURT COSTS EN INCREASE LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to court costs in the 15th JDC

Purpose of the Bill: This measure requires court reporters to be paid a fee as determined by a majority of the judges in the 15th Judicial District Court (JDC) for testimony reported and transcribed. In addition, this measure authorizes the 15th JDC to increase civil court costs from a maximum of \$15 to a maximum of \$35. Finally, this measure authorizes the 15th JDC to increase court costs on criminal defendants who are convicted after trial or after plea of guilty or who forfeits bond from a maximum of \$5 to a maximum of \$20.

As required by state law (R.S. 13:62), the 15th JDC submitted the proposed civil and criminal court costs to the Judicial Review Council for review. The Judicial Review Council has reviewed their proposal and found that the proposed costs appear to meet the applicable guidelines.

The bill provides that in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 13:62, the increase in court costs or fees as provided for in R.S. 13:961 (F)(1)(v) in this Act shall become effective if and when the Judicial Council provides recommendation that such court costs or fees meet the applicable guidelines in its report to the Louisiana Legislature. No fees shall be imposed or collected without Judicial Council approval.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES/REVENUES, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 5-YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total for both categories.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The impact of this measure on local government expenditures is indeterminable.

Based on our discussion with officials from the 15th JDC and Vermilion and Acadia parishes, it appears that the parish government pays transcriptions fees to the court reporters. This bill provides that this fee will be set by the judges of the 15th JDC. We were unable to determine the impact of this bill on local government expenditures as it depends on the fees that will be set by the judges.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This measure may increase local government revenues by a maximum of \$315,360 annually for the 15th JDC.

Based on 2016 and 2017 civil case data from the 15th JDC, we determined that this bill could increase the 15th JDC's revenue by \$179,760 annually from civil cases, assuming the maximum fee is imposed (8,988 civil cases per year x \$20 fee increase).

Based on 2016 and 2017 criminal case data from the 15th JDC, we determined that this bill could increase the 15th JDC's revenue by \$135,600 annually from criminal cases, assuming the maximum fee is imposed (9,040 criminal cases per year x \$15 fee increase).

However, an official with the 15th JDC indicated that the fee imposed in these cases may be less than the maximum allowed by this bill. For example, if lower fee amounts are imposed, this bill could increase annual revenue as follows:

\$5 fee increase = \$90,140 increase in revenue
\$10 fee increase = \$180,280 increase in revenue.

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}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
Michael G. Battle
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