

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



Fiscal Note On: **HB 188** HLS 19RS 256  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 24, 2019 6:09 PM	<b>Author:</b> MORRIS, JIM
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Revenue	<b>Analyst:</b> Greg Albrecht
<b>Subject:</b> Severance Tax Exemption - Stripper Well Production	

TAX/SEVERANCE TAX EG -\$7,000,000 GF RV See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides with respect to the exemption from severance tax on oil produced from stripper wells

Current law imposes a severance tax on the production from stripper wells (no more than 10 barrels of oil per producing day) of 3.125% of the value of the oil when severed. This tax suspended in any month when the average value is less than \$20 per barrel.

Proposed law will suspend the tax stripper wells and fields in any month when the average value is less than \$75 per barrel. The Dept of Revenue shall determine the oil value quarterly based on the average New York Mercantile Exchange Price in the prior three months. This exemption is available for nearly ten years, from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2029.

Effective upon governor's signature.

EXPENDITURES	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>5 -YEAR TOTAL</u>
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	\$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>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

REVENUES	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>5 -YEAR TOTAL</u>
State Gen. Fd.	(\$2,940,000)	(\$5,880,000)	(\$5,880,000)	(\$5,880,000)	(\$5,880,000)	<b>(\$26,460,000)</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	(\$560,000)	(\$1,120,000)	(\$1,120,000)	(\$1,120,000)	(\$1,120,000)	<b>(\$5,040,000)</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>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>(\$3,500,000)</b>	<b>(\$7,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$7,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$7,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$7,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$31,500,000)</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

The Department of Revenue will incur staff costs associated with modifications to the tax processing system to incorporate a new tax return necessary to implement the price-based exemption in this bill. These costs estimated at approximately \$140,000 of staff time. Additional staff time costs associated with handling issues with taxpayers resulting from this change may also be incurred.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

The current exemption was enacted by Act 2 of 1994, resulting in intermittent months of tax exemption from FY95 through FY99. Since then, oil prices have generally exceeded \$20/bbl and these wells have been subject to the stripper rate of 3.125% of value (1/4 the tax of full-rate production). Currently, these wells are producing approximately 4 million - 4.5 million barrels of oil per year, and being exempted from approximately \$19 million - \$22 million of severance tax per year (\$21.4 million in FY18) relative to the full-rate tax of 12.5% of value.

Oil prices are currently less than \$75/bbl, and are not currently expected to exceed that price during the fiscal note horizon. Thus, the bill is expected to exempt these wells from their current level of tax payment, some \$6 million to \$7.5 million per year (\$7.3 million in FY18). Modestly rising oil price projections are assumed to offset modestly declining production to result in approximately \$7 million per year of foregone severance tax receipts. The price/exemption determination is to be made on a quarterly basis, and in some portions of a year this production could be exempt, and in some portions taxable.

Half-year effects are assumed for FY20 since the bill's exemption is available beginning with the second half of FY20. On a full-year basis, approximately 84% of any annual loss will affect the state general fund (\$5.880 million), with 14% affecting the parish severance tax allocation (\$980,000) and 2% the wetlands fund allocation (\$140,000).

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}

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