



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

Fiscal Note On: **HB 329** HLS 20RS 662  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 18, 2020 6:39 AM	<b>Author:</b> JONES
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Probation and Parole	<b>Analyst:</b> Monique Appeaning
<b>Subject:</b> Pre-Parole Reports	

PAROLE EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to information contained in pre-parole reports

Proposed law provides that upon request, for an offender docketed for a pardon or parole hearing or his counsel shall, within a reasonable time following the request but no later than fourteen days prior to the commencement of any such hearing, be provided with certain information and any other information compiled and given to the Board of Pardons and committee on parole pertaining to the requesting offender, with the exception of any information provided by, on behalf of, or pertaining to the victim or the victim's family members. If an individual who is not a law enforcement officer requests that his identity not be disclosed to the requesting offender, the information provided to the requesting offender shall exclude such identity and not be subject to disclosure unless expressly authorized by the person whose information is sought. Any mental health evaluation of the requesting offender prepared for the purpose of his pardon or parole consideration shall be provided to the requesting offender or his counsel and the district attorney or his designee. (ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE LOUISIANA STATE LAW INSTITUTE)

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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>REVENUES</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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>						

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will result in a SGF expenditure increase for the Louisiana Board of Pardons & Committee of Parole to provide pre-parole reports. The agency reports that it will require two full-time T.O. positions, along with associated equipment and office supplies. The LFO cannot corroborate the potential workload created by proposed law and whether such workload will require additional budgetary and personnel resources. Proposed law makes certain information available to an offender docketed for a pardon or parole hearing, or his counsel, within a reasonable time following request but no later than fourteen days prior to the commencement of any such hearing. Under present law, this information is provided to other parties upon request (i.e. committee on parole, Board of Pardons, sentencing judge, etc.). The number of offenders (or their counsel) that may request such information is unknown. The average number of offenders docketed for a pardon or parole hearing annually from 2017 through 2019 was 1,630, with a high of 2,071 in 2019 up from a low of 1,125 in 2017. To the degree that the information is requested by offenders docketed for a hearing, the Louisiana Board of Pardons will realize a workload and expenditure increase. However, as this information is currently available to other parties, the workload increase may be incremental in nature, requiring reproduction of an additional report on top of an unknown number of reproductions already requested under the provisions of present law. In these cases, the additional workload would be de minimis and costs would be limited to marginal increases in supplies and equipment. Given that the number of pardon or parole hearings docketed on an annual basis grew by 946 from 2017 to 2019, the LFO assumes the board is at least partially justified in stating that it is unable to absorb additional workload without increased resources. The level of resources required is indeterminable.

The Louisiana Board of Pardons & Committee of Parole estimates annual recurring expenditures of approximately \$129,589, while requiring an additional one-time expenditure of \$8,675 in FY 21 for office equipment, computer equipment and a copy machine (increasing first year costs to \$138,264). The assumed expenditures include the following approximate elements:

- Two Investigative Specialist T.O. positions - \$124,769 (salaries at \$47,988 and related benefits at \$14,396.40 each)
- Laptop with Docking Station - \$3,600 (2 x \$1,800)
- Office Equipment = \$3,325
- Xerox Copy Machine = \$3,070
- Office Supplies = \$3,500
- Total = \$138,264 (Year One)

The out-years reflect recurring personal services and operating services expenditures. The estimate does not include annual market rate adjustments. To the extent such adjustments are awarded, personal services expenditures would increase between 2% and 4% annually.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in SGR to the Louisiana Board of Pardons & Committee of Parole by charging a fee for copies of specific information that is authorized for release.

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}

*Evan Brasseaux*  
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**Staff Director**