



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: SB 145 SLS 20RS 272
Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action: w/ HSE COMM AMD
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 20, 2020 4:27 PM Author: MILLS, ROBERT
Dept./Agy.: Twenty-sixth Judicial District Court (26th JDC) Analyst: Barbara Lively
Subject: Court Fees

COURTS EG1 INCREASE LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to fees charged by the clerk of court for the Twenty-sixth Judicial District Court. (2/3 - CA7s2.1(A))
(8/1/20)

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: This measure consolidates various filing fees collected for the court reporter's fund by the Webster Parish Clerk of Court for the 26th JDC to a flat fee of \$15 for all civil suits or proceedings that are not exempt by law. The current four fee types that are being collected range from \$3 to \$15 depending on the case. Also, the fee charged for copies of transcribed testimony in civil appeals cases may (per this bill) include all pages, instead of those in excess of 350 pages.

The fees provided for in this bill will become effective on the date of Judicial Council approval.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES/REVENUES, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 5-YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

According to the Webster Clerk of Court, they handle a relatively small number of cases that are filed by state and local government agencies. The court costs for these cases are ultimately determined by the judge when the case is decided, but usually become the liability of the non-prevailing party (which could be a public entity). Therefore, the possible increase in the cost for government, if they are liable, would be minimal/immaterial.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This measure may increase local fund revenues by an estimated \$25,000 over the next five years.

According to the Webster Clerk of Court, there were 799 applicable filings in calendar year 2019. Actual collections in 2019 were \$8,222. Assuming the number of filings remain constant and the maximum fee of \$15 is charged, collections could increase by \$3,763 per year (799 filings x \$15 - \$8,222 = \$3,763). In addition, copy fees may increase by \$1,247 for each year based on transcripts that fell below the 350 page billing threshold, according to the Clerk's Office.

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
Manager, Advisory Services