



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 201** SLS 22RS 369
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 15, 2022 6:54 PM	Author: JACKSON
Dept./Agy.: District Public Defenders	
Subject: Group Health Insurance Coverage for Attorney Contractors	Analyst: Jodie Debetaz

LOCAL EMPLOYEES OR SEE FISC NOTE LF EX Page 1 of 1

Adds contract attorneys of district public defender offices to group health insurance coverage offered by parish governments. (8/1/22)

Purpose of Bill: This bill appears to authorize attorney contractors to participate in group health insurance programs offered by parish governing authorities to their officials and employees.

EXPENDITURES	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>5 -YEAR TOTAL</u>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>5 -YEAR TOTAL</u>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill appears to authorize attorney contractors to participate in group health insurance programs offered by parish governing authorities to their officials and employees. Based on language in the bill, current law, and feedback obtained from several entities, it is difficult to determine who will actually pay the insurance premiums for these contractors (government entity or contracted employee). The potential impacts of this bill on insurance premium costs are as follows:

- (1) If this bill provides that the district public defender or parish governing authority is responsible for employer payment of these insurance premiums, then expenditures for these entities may increase to the extent that contractors participate in the insurance programs and their premiums are paid by these entities. However, the exact statewide impact is indeterminable at this time due to a lack of information, including information about individual insurance programs and the number of contractors participating in these programs.
- (2) If this bill primarily provides authority to participate in the programs and that only the attorney contractors are responsible for payment, then this bill would not impact governmental expenditures for insurance premiums.

In addition, parish governing authorities that have an insurance program may see their costs to manage these programs increase to the extent that additional individuals (i.e. contractors) are added to the insurance program. The exact statewide impact is indeterminable at this time due to a lack of information, including information about the number of contractors that will participate in these programs. However, information from the parish governing authorities for Ascension and Ouachita indicates that such costs may be minimal.

Note: Information from the Louisiana Public Defender Board indicates that there are currently 536 attorney contractors statewide. While we were unable to determine how many of these contractors participate in parish insurance programs, we note that some contractors are currently participating. Specifically, we note that 5 to 6 contractors in Ouachita Parish participate in the Ouachita Parish Police Jury's insurance program. These contractors reimburse the Police Jury for premiums paid for their insurance coverage by the Police Jury.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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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