



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 193** HLS 23RS 103
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 1, 2023	4:21 PM	Author: OWEN, CHARLES
Dept./Agy.: 30th Judicial District Court		
Subject: Court Reporter Fees		Analyst: Gary Devall

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS EG INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to transcription fees charged by court reporters in the Thirtieth Judicial District

Purpose of Bill: This bill increases fees paid to court reporters from \$1.50 per page for the original testimony, \$0.50 per page for the first copy, and \$0.35 per page for additional copies to between \$3.00 and \$6.00 per page for the original testimony and no less than \$1.00 per page for each copy. In addition, the bill clarifies that these fees will be charged in civil cases and criminal cases. The exact amount of the new fees is subject to approval by the 30th Judicial District Court (JDC) judges.

In addition, this bill provides that, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 13:62, the increase in court costs or fees shall become effective if and when the Judicial Council provides a recommendation that such court costs or fees meet the applicable guidelines in its report to the Louisiana Legislature. This bill was not included in the *Report of the Judicial Council to the Louisiana State Legislature Regarding Requests for Costs and Fees* dated February 28, 2023.

EXPENDITURES	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>2027-28</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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>2027-28</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						
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase expenditures of the Vernon Parish Police Jury by up to \$33,000 per year.

Civil Cases: According to representatives of the 30th JDC and the Vernon Parish Police Jury, court transcription fees for civil cases are paid directly by private parties who request transcripts of hearings, and there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill. In addition, officials with the Louisiana Department of Justice confirmed that governmental expenditures would not be impacted.

Criminal Cases: This bill may increase expenditures of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, as transcription fees for defendants who have "appointed" counsel are paid by Vernon Parish Police Jury through its General and Criminal Court funds. An official with the Vernon Parish Police jury reported the actual fiscal impact would be difficult to predict, but the annual average of applicable court transcription fees over the last five years has been approximately \$11,000. With the proposed increase of these fees, they could incur up to a \$33,000 annual increase (\$11,000 annually / \$1.50 current fee x up to \$4.50 increase in fees).

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

The increase in fees provided in this bill is paid directly to court reporters rather than a government entity. Therefore, this bill does not have a direct material impact on governmental 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}

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