



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

Fiscal Note On: **HB 717** HLS 24RS 894  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 21, 2024 6:05 PM	<b>Author:</b> DOMANGUE
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
<b>Subject:</b> Louisiana French Commerce Act	<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

CULTURE/FRENCH OR +\$550,458 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to the Louisiana French Commerce Act

Proposed law adds the creation of job opportunities for Louisiana’s French speaking residents to the Louisiana French Language Services Program. Requires all state agencies and contractors to hire Louisiana residents or Louisiana owned and incorporated entities for positions or contracts involving French language skills, and to hire Louisiana residents who speak French in roles where French language skills are relevant to job responsibilities. Requires CRT hire one French speaking employee, who is a Louisiana resident, at each visitor center it oversees. Adds development of specific, measurable plans to increase investments and partnerships with France, Canada, and other Francophone countries to the Louisiana Board of International Commerce’s responsibilities. Requires the board ensure LED hires a chief representative from France or Canada, who is currently a resident or entity of Louisiana with economic development experience and fluent French language skills. Requires the board to add a specific section dedicated to developing international commerce with Francophone countries in its Master Plan. Requires LED fund and implement projects consistent with these plan additions.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$550,458	\$572,476	\$595,375	\$619,190	\$643,958	\$2,981,457
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$550,458</b>	<b>\$572,476</b>	<b>\$595,375</b>	<b>\$619,190</b>	<b>\$643,958</b>	<b>\$2,981,457</b>
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed legislation will result in an increase in SGF expenditures for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT) and the Department of Economic Development (LED). Increases are due to the qualifications for positions specifically enumerated in proposed legislation. CRT reports needing an additional eight (8) authorized T.O. positions to hire at least one French speaking employee, who is a Louisiana resident, in each of its welcome centers. These employees are to be classified as an Administrative Program Specialist A (\$35,734 salary and \$19,457 related benefits). CRT projects a 4% increase in salaries and benefits each year. LED reports needing one (1) additional unclassified T.O. position to hire a Project Manager (\$72,620 salary and \$36,310 related benefits) for its international commerce team, as no current members are fluent in French. LED did not include potential salary increases in its out-year estimates, but for the purposes of this fiscal note, the same 4% increases are applied to this position. The projected total impact to SGF expenditures in order to hire these additional state employees is included in the table above.

The Department of Civil Service notes that the bill may require a change in the minimum qualifications for some positions but its staff will work with agencies to address those requirements, at no additional cost. There may be additional impacts, but these are dependent on the number of positions in all state agencies that involve French language skills and would require agencies to hire Louisiana residents or Louisiana owned and incorporated entities. Similarly, the number of positions significantly involving Louisiana historical research, archives, cultural development, international tourism, international commerce, and other internationally oriented positions that will require French or Creole language skills as a job requirement or preferred qualification due to the requirements of proposed legislation is unknown.

**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}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**