

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 636 HLS 24RS 133
Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 8, 2024 5:02 PM Author: VENTRELLA
Dept./Agy.: City Court of Central Analyst: Steven Kraemer
Subject: Creates the City Court of Central

COURTS EG SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
Creates a new city court in Central

Purpose of Bill: This bill creates the City Court of Central (Court) within the City of Central (City), providing for its jurisdiction, operations, and requirements for its judge and personnel.

Note: A City official indicated that there are no plans to establish the Court within the next five years, which makes the timing of the bill's fiscal impact indeterminable. The fiscal analysis in this fiscal note is provided for illustrative purposes. This illustrative analysis, which is based on information from various state and local entities, assumes that the Court will be established in FY 2025.

Note: R.S. 13:61 requires Judicial Council approval for the creation of new judgeships for City Courts. R.S. 13:62 requires Judicial Council review and recommendation for the enactment of new court costs or fees. A Louisiana Supreme Court official indicated that the provisions of HB 636 regarding the creation of a new judgeship and new court costs have not undergone the processes required under these laws.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds.

Annual Total

Table with 7 columns: REVENUES, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds.

Annual Total

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The bill may increase annual state general fund expenditures and annual expenditures of certain local entities in East Baton Rouge Parish by an indeterminable amount. The exact timing and amount of the impact depends upon when the court is established and the size of its operations. For illustrative purposes, we provide the following potential expenditure impact information:

- (1) City of Central: A City official indicated that this bill may increase city expenditures by \$420,000 annually in FY 2025, \$390,000 annually in FY 2026, and \$422,000 annually by FY 2029 to fund Court operations.
(2) 19th Judicial District Attorney: A District Attorney official indicated that this bill may increase district attorney expenditures by \$253,700 in FY 2025, \$222,494 annually in FY 2026, and \$237,277 annually by FY 2029 for both additional staff and ongoing and one-time office-related expenditures. This official indicated that local funding will cover the majority of these expenditures, with the state general fund contributing \$50,000 towards staffing costs.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

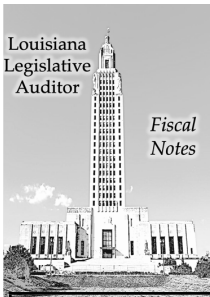
This bill may impact revenue of certain local entities in East Baton Rouge Parish by an indeterminable amount if cases typically handled by the 19th JDC are shifted to the Court. The exact timing and amount of the impact depends upon the number and timing of cases shifted. For illustrative purposes, we provide the following potential revenue impact information:

- (1) City of Central: A City official indicated that this bill may increase city revenue by \$150,000 annually in FY 2025 and may increase revenue further to \$230,000 annually by FY 2029 if cases, typically handled by the 19th JDC, are shifted to the Court.
(2) East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office: A Sheriff's Office official indicated that the bill may decrease Sheriff's revenue by \$101,000 annually in FY 2025, further decreasing to \$123,000 annually by FY 2029. This decrease is due to certain criminal cases, currently handled by the 19th JDC and contributing to the Sheriff's revenue, being shifted to the Court.

(Continued on Page 2)

- 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



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

(3) 19th Judicial District Public Defender: A Public Defender official indicated that this bill may increase public defender expenditures by \$67,600 annually for additional staff. This official indicated that the public defender may request state general fund money for this expenditure increase due to a lack of available local funding.

(4) Local Election Expenditures: A Louisiana Secretary of State official indicated that this bill may increase local election expenditures due to adding a judge to the ballot. The exact amount and timing of this increase is indeterminable as it depends upon the timing of the election and the number of items on the ballot. However, the maximum election cost that the City would be responsible for paying may range from \$4,400 to \$44,000, depending on the election.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

(3) East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court: A Clerk of Court official indicated that this bill may decrease clerk revenue by \$65,000 annually due to a decrease in filing fees resulting from cases typically handled by 19th JDC being shifted to the Court.

(4) 19th Judicial District Court: A 19th JDC official indicated that this bill may decrease JDC revenue derived from cases typically handled by the JDC. This decrease is due to shifting cases typically handled by the JDC to the City Court, which may eliminate JDC revenue that may have been derived from these shifted cases. While the exact timing and amount of the decrease is indeterminable, as it depends upon the timing and number of cases shifted, this official expects the decrease to be immaterial.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
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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}

Michael G. Battle
Manager, Advisory Services