

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 380** HLS 24RS 846
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 10, 2024	5:43 PM	Author: ZERINGUE
Dept./Agy.: Clerks of Court		
Subject: Electronic Filings		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

COURTS OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to electronic filings

Current law provides for the Louisiana Clerks Remote Access Authority (LCRAA), particularly its infrastructure, governance, procedures, technology and training to support a statewide portal for secure remote access by internet users to certain records maintained by the LCRAA; provides for certain obligations placed on LCRAA to its members. Proposed law restricts the duties of the LCRAA to developing a statewide integrated electronic filing system for document filing and case, document, and image management; requires every district court clerk to have the electronic filing system in place no later than 1/01/26; provides that LCRAA shall be composed of members who are district clerks of court, and that members shall provide the LCRAA with remote access to indices of certain records maintained by each clerk; provides governance structure of LCRAA Board of Commissioners and that board members shall receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses related to its governance; requires every district court clerk to provide its case management or docket system software and software vendor used by each parish court clerk, the number and percentage of remote electronic and physical filings of pleadings converted to electronic image in each parish clerk of court, the capability and extent of the respective case management or docket systems to accept electronic signatures by courts' judges, costs charged by each clerk to process electronic filings and access, view, and download images of civil and criminal pleadings, electronic images or paper copies of documents in the land title database, electronic recording of documents effecting land titles, and funding needed to complete an integrated electronic filing system for parish clerks; allows fax filings until 1/01/26; requires electronic filings on or after 1/01/26.

EXPENDITURES	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						
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
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable, but significant increase in Local Funds expenditures in the Louisiana Clerks Remote Access Authority (LCRAA) and the district clerks of court. The proposed legislation requires the development of a statewide integrated electronic filing system, including case management, and document and image management for both civil and criminal matters. The Clerks of Court anticipates the cost to implement a statewide integrated electronic filing system at \$50 M, associated with the implementation of the proposed law's requirements. The LFO can corroborate that the proposed law's requirements will result in a significant increase in expenditures in the LCRAA, but cannot corroborate that the proposed law's requirements will sustain expenditures to the extent anticipated by the Louisiana Clerks of Court.

The estimate provided by the Louisiana Clerks is based upon a comparison with another state with twice the population of Louisiana that has implemented a new statewide integrated filing system and has assumed over \$100 M in expenditures in doing so. The LFO presumes that a more detailed review of costs relative to securing necessary information technology (IT) personnel to execute work related to integrating existing software in use by parish clerks into the Louisiana Clerks Remote Access Authority's electronic filing system in each clerk of court would provide a more reliable estimate of expenditures for completion of the integrated electronic filing system within the timeframe required (before 1/01/26).

Proposed law will also increase Local expenditures in the Louisiana Clerks of Court for costs for reimbursement for reasonable expenses related to those serving as members of the Louisiana Clerks Remote Access Authority's (LCRAA) Board of Commissioners in the governance of the LCRAA. The proposed law increases the LCRAA's Board of Commissioners from seven members to 11 members, all of whom are elected by LCRAA members. The exact fiscal impact of this provision within the proposed law is indeterminable, as it is unknown the expenses that will be incurred by the Louisiana Clerks of Court for LCRAA board governance.

Proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable increase in workload in the district clerks of court, as each will be required to provide information, including its case management or docket system software and software vendor used by each parish court clerk, the number and percentage of remote electronic and physical filings of pleadings converted to electronic image in each parish clerk of court, the capability and extent of the respective case management or docket systems to accept electronic signatures by courts' judges, costs charged by each clerk to process electronic filings and access, view, and download images of civil and criminal pleadings, electronic images or paper copies of documents in the land title database, electronic recording of documents affecting land titles. The LFO assumes that the district clerks of court can absorb this anticipated workload using existing staff and resources.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate
 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
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