



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

Fiscal Note On: **HB 326** HLS 24RS 482  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 16, 2024	8:54 AM	<b>Author:</b> HORTON
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Department of Public Safety		<b>Analyst:</b> John McKay
<b>Subject:</b> Provides relative to occupational diseases for State Police		

POLICE/STATE EG INCREASE SG EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to occupational diseases for the division of state police

Proposed law provides that any loss of hearing that is 10 decibels or greater on average for the frequencies that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) monitors for noise exposure in the general population when adjusted for aging and that develops during employment in the division shall, under proposed law only, be classified as a disease or infirmity connected with employment. Proposed law requires each person selected for appointment to an entry level position with the division on and after Aug. 1, 2024, to submit to a baseline audiology examination, an annual audiological examination, and a final termination audiological evaluation at the end of service. Proposed law further requires the baseline examination to be conducted no later than one year following the employee's appointment.

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.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
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>						
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**

The proposed law will likely increase SGR expenditures by a significant amount as a result of increased Worker's Compensation claims. The proposed law adds hearing loss developed during employment in the division of state police service as an occupational disease which expands current coverage. Also, beginning August 1, 2024, the proposed law requires each newly hired entry-level position in the division to submit to a baseline hearing exam upon hire, annual hearing exams, and a final termination hearing evaluation at the end of service.

**Audiology (Hearing) Examinations**

Louisiana State Police currently offers annual hearing assessments through a contract with an audiologist. The estimated cost per exam is \$70. To the extent the current assessment does not meet the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, any increase in costs related to hearing exams will be marginal.

**Worker's Compensation Claims**

The proposed law adds hearing loss while employed in the division of state police as an occupational disease. This likely will result in increased Worker's Compensation claims for hearing loss. These claims would be presumption claims under a preponderance of evidence and without litigation. In addition, there will be indeterminable litigation costs associated with denying and challenging claims.

**Disability Retirement Claims**

To the extent this measure increases the number of service related disability claims, the proposed law would increase state governmental pension expenditures by an indeterminate amount. Also, the proposed law may shift some non-service related disability claims to service-related claims.

**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**