

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



Fiscal Note On: **HB 127** HLS 24RS 451  
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 17, 2024	10:03 AM	<b>Author:</b> BAYHAM
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Corrections/Courts		
<b>Subject:</b> Penalties for Simple Obstruction of a Highway of Commerce		<b>Analyst:</b> Daniel Druilhet

CRIMINAL/PENALTIES RE SEE FISC NOTE SG EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to the penalties for the crime of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce

Current law provides that simple obstruction of a highway of commerce is the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or performance of any act on any railway, railroad, navigable waterway, road, highway, thoroughfare, or runway of an airport, which will render movement thereon more difficult; mandates a fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both, for conviction of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce. Proposed law retains current law and adds a definition of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce as the coordination, organization, planning of either the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or the intentional or criminally negligent performance of any act on any railway, railroad, navigable waterway, road, highway, thoroughfare, or runway of an airport, which will render movement thereon more difficult; increases the fine to no more than \$750 for those convicted; does not apply to an employee or contractor of any public utility or provider of electric utility services, communications, telecommunications, video, or information services, to the extent that either acts on behalf of the entity in a road, highway, or thoroughfare.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	

**Annual Total**

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	

**Annual Total**

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in Local Funds expenditures for local governing authorities if a person is convicted of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce. Proposed law expands the definition of the crime of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce to the coordination, organization, planning of either the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or the intentional or criminally negligent performance of any act on any railway, railroad, navigable waterway, road, highway, thoroughfare, or runway of an airport, which will render movement thereon more difficult. Proposed law has the effect of expanding the circumstances under which violations of current law can occur. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation to local governing authorities is indeterminable, since it is not known how many people will be convicted, nor the length of the sentences assessed as a result of its potential enactment. The maximum imprisonment term at the local level is no more than six months.

There is no anticipated direct material effect on state governmental expenditures as a result of this measure because this legislation expands the definition of a misdemeanor offense; therefore, these offenders are not sentenced to the Department of Public Safety & Corrections - Corrections Services (DPS&C).

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in local revenues as a result of convictions of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation on local revenue is indeterminable because the fines that would be imposed on those convicted are optional, and the amount of the fines, if imposed, may vary. The potential revenue will accrue to the local governing authority.

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