



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 249** HLS 25RS 323

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

| | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|
| Date: April 22, 2025 | 5:33 PM | Author: DEWITT |
| Dept./Agy.: City Court of Alexandria | | |
| Subject: Court Costs and Fees | | Analyst: Barry Kelly |

COURTS/COURT COSTS

OR SEE FISC NOTE LF EX

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Provides relative to the use of court costs and civil filing fees in the City Court of Alexandria

Purpose of Bill: Current law provides for allocations of civil fees and criminal court costs collected by the City Court of Alexandria (Court) as follows: Court receives 50% of civil fees; Rapides Parish Police Jury (Police Jury) receives 50% of civil fees; and City of Alexandria (City) receives 100% of criminal court costs. This allocation arrangement is set to expire January 1, 2026, which would revert the allocations back to the previous structure with the Court receiving 100% of criminal court costs and the City receiving the Court's 50% of civil fees. This bill repeals that sunset provision, thereby making the current allocation structure permanent. Furthermore, the bill expands the authorized uses of the Court's retained civil fees, allowing the Court to supplement clerk and deputy clerk compensation (subject to mutual consent between the Court and the City or Police Jury) and makes explicit that the Court is authorized to use civil fees to pay stenographic, clerical, and other operational costs without requiring consent from the City or Police Jury.

| EXPENDITURES | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 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 | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | |
| Annual Total | | | | | | |

| REVENUES | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 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 | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | |
| Annual Total | | | | | | |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION
This bill is not expected to impact overall governmental expenditures. However, this bill could shift some of the cost for compensating clerks and deputy clerks from the City and the Police Jury to the Court. Such a shift may increase Court expenditures and decrease City and/or Police Jury expenditures. The exact amount and timing of this impact, if any, is currently indeterminable.

An official with the Court indicated that the provisions authorizing civil fees for operational expenses (stenographic, clerical, etc.) will not change current expenditure levels, as it only makes explicit the Court's existing authority. Regarding the provisions related to supplementing clerk and deputy clerk compensation, any fiscal impact depends on future agreements between the Court and the relevant governing authority (City or Police Jury). An official with the Court indicated that the likelihood and timing of such agreements are uncertain, therefore the exact amount and timing of the fiscal impact of these provisions, if any, is indeterminable. However, to the extent that such an agreement is created, there may be a shift of expenditures from the City and/or Police Jury to the Court.

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

This bill repeals the sunset provision applicable to the current allocation of criminal court costs and civil fees collected by the City Court. This repeal makes the existing distribution method for these funds permanent. As a result, the bill is not expected to impact governmental revenues as it only provides for the continued use of the existing allocation method.