



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 824** HLS 26RS 1196
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 6, 2026	12:25 PM	Author: BEAULLIEU
Dept./Agy.: Statewide		
Subject: Government Growth Limit		Analyst: Noah O'Dell

APPROPRIATIONS OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2
 Limits the amount of state general fund that may be appropriated in a fiscal year

Current Law requires the Division of Administration to provide for the determination of an Expenditure Limit, prohibits appropriations from the state general fund and dedicated funds from exceeding the official forecast at the time the appropriations are made, establishes timing and content requirements for the governor's annual proposed budget, and prohibits the proposed budget from exceeding the lesser of the official forecast or the Expenditure Limit for the fiscal year being appropriated.

Proposed Law creates a Government Growth Limit, establishes a methodology for setting the limit in subsequent fiscal years, provides for conditions on lowering the limit, provides for recurring revenues recognized above the limit and allowable uses thereof, provides for exclusions from the limit, provides for changes to the limit, restricts appropriations above the limit, and establishes content requirements of the governor's annual proposed budget.

Contingent upon voter approval of the Constitutional Amendment proposed in HB 646 of the 2026 RS on November 3, 2026.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$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

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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

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

Proposed Law would serve to restrict the legislature's ability and flexibility to appropriate the entirety of state revenues available for expenditure. Beginning in FY 28, the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) would establish the Government Growth Limit no later than the first quarter of the calendar year for the next fiscal year based on the calculation submitted by the Commissioner of Administration. Appropriations from State General Fund (Direct) above this limit can only be made (up to the Expenditure Limit or official revenue forecast) for certain nonrecurring purposes.

Calculation:

The calculation procedure for the Government Growth Limit is the sum of the base amount plus the result of the base multiplied by a positive growth factor. The base is defined in this measure as the last full fiscal year's appropriations for recurring expenses from the State General Fund (Direct), excluding any amount appropriated in the prior year over the Government Growth Limit and below the Expenditure Limit for nonrecurring expenses as defined in proposed law.

The growth factor is derived from the sum of two averages: 1) the average annual percentage rate change in population within Louisiana over five calendar years as reported by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and 2) the average of two percentage rates of change over five calendar years: the average annual chained-consumer price index and the average annual chained consumer medical care price index, both as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Only when the growth factor is positive, is it applied to the limit and a calculation is executed to develop a new limit. Should the growth factor be negative, the Government Growth Limit shall be equal to the defined base.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure. State General Fund (Direct) forecasted above the Government Growth Limit and below the Expenditure Limit may only be appropriated for nonrecurring expenses. The measure defines "nonrecurring expenses" as those that are not of a continuing or recurring character and are not expected to be necessary in approximately the same amounts each year during the normal course of administration.

<u>Senate</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}	<u>House</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	
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Alan M. Boxberger
 Legislative Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Expenditure Explanation Continued

Limitations on Expenditures:

If the amount of recurring revenue available for appropriation exceeds the Government Growth Limit but remains under the Expenditure Limit, revenues may only be appropriated for nonrecurring expenditures. These are defined in the measure as expenses which are not of a continuing or recurring character and are not expected to be necessary in approximately the same amounts each year during the normal course of administration. Note: the expenditures defined as nonrecurring in this measure are not the same as the six restricted uses for revenues recognized as nonrecurring by the REC found in the current Constitution under Article VII Section 10 (D)(2).

The Government Growth Limit shall not apply to the following appropriations:

- 1. Funds utilized from the Budget Stabilization Fund in the official revenue forecast
2. Increases of SGF resulting from a decrease in another means of finance (MOF Swaps for SGF)
3. Any funds appropriated or allocated that are excluded from contributing to the expenditure limit

Changing the Limit:

Proposed companion constitutional amendment contemplated in HB 646 of the 2026 RS, provides that the Government Growth Limit may be changed by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house through a specific legislative instrument. However, the limit may only be changed in years in which the growth factor for any of the three immediately preceding fiscal years was less than two and one-half percent.

Proposed Law provides that any proposal by the governor to exceed the Expenditure Limit or the Government Growth Limit shall be itemized by program and shall constitute a submission by the governor separate and apart from the executive budget.

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 Alan M. Boxberger
Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer