



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 251** SLS 13RS 783

Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 3, 2013	12:12 PM	<b>Author:</b> MORRELL
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Courts		
<b>Subject:</b> Additional Court Costs for Domestic Violence Offenses		<b>Analyst:</b> Steven Kraemer

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RE INCREASE LF RV See Note

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Provides for fee to be added to domestic violence convictions in certain courts. (2/3 - CA7s2.1) (gov sig)

**Purpose of Bill:** This bill creates a court cost to be imposed on any defendant who is convicted of a domestic violence offense by a mayor’s court, magistrate court/section, or any court with competent jurisdiction. These courts are required to impose a cost not less than \$1 and not more than \$500. These funds are to be remitted to the parish governing authority. The parish governing authority, except Orleans Parish, shall use the monies for contracting with any program under contract with and recognized by the Department of Children and Family Services as a provider of a community-based shelter for victims of domestic violence pursuant to R.S. 46:2124 in that parish. In Orleans Parish, the monies are to be used for contracting with any local nonprofit organization that provides shelter to homeless or battered women and their children.

State law (R.S. 13:62) requires this court cost to be reviewed by the Judicial Council and a recommendation be provided to the legislature prior to enacting the court cost. An official with the Louisiana Supreme Court indicated that this court cost was not reviewed by the Judicial Council.

EXPENDITURES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**We were unable to determine the impact that this bill may have on local governmental expenditures statewide.** However, this bill may increase local fund expenditures of parish governing authorities when they contract with non-profits as provided for in the bill. In addition, there may be some added cost for additional audit services.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**We estimate that this bill may increase local government revenue by up to approximately \$1.3 million annually statewide.**

Based on information obtained from the Louisiana Public Defender’s Office, we estimate that this bill may increase local government revenue by up to approximately \$1.3 million annually (2,547 convictions/guilty pleas x \$500 per conviction) statewide. However, it is possible that courts will not levy the maximum fee provided for in the bill. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the actual overall impact. Also, an official providing this information indicated that the conviction figures provided were likely lower than actual convictions/guilty pleas due to data limitations.