



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
Fiscal Note Summary

Louisiana

FISCAL NOTE ON: SB282  
SRS 97- 1591  
STATUS OF BILL: ENGROSSED

**DATE COMPLETED:** June 1, 1997  
**Dept:** Judicial Branch  
**Subject:** Criminal Cases

**AUTHOR:** Senator Lentini  
**ANALYST:** Kenyetta Sewell

**PURPOSE OF BILL:**

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.** Constitutional amendment to provide relative to joinder of felonies and trials in criminal cases.

The proposed bill would require that in a criminal case where punishment may be confinement at hard labor or confinement without hard labor for more than six months, the case shall be tried before a jury of six persons, all of whom must concur to render a verdict. The bill further stipulates that in cases where punishment may be confinement at hard labor, such cases may be joined if the offenses are of the same or similar character, the bill also states that such cases shall be tried by a jury of twelve. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the congressional primary election to be held in 1998.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>5 YEAR TOTAL</b>
State General Funds	INCREASE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agency Self Generated	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statutory Deds./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>5 YEAR TOTAL</b>
State General Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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Statutory Deds./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

There could be some savings to the state and local governing authorities if certain cases are joined; however, due to the language of the bill which states that offenses may be joined, the amount of savings from this measure is indeterminable. The District Attorney's Association indicated that collective data is not available regarding "same or similar" offenses for a particular offender; such information would be necessary to determine how many criminal cases might be merged or joined.

The Department of Elections and Registration indicates that the cost for placing the proposed constitutional amendment on the 1998 election ballot would be minimal to the state and local governing authorities, since funding for the 1998 congressional primary election will be budgeted.

The Secretary of State has determined that the estimated cost of placing a constitutional amendment on an election ballot would be \$28,000. The costs include, printing approximately 70,000 absentee voting cards and the cost of publishing the proposed constitutional amendment in the 64 official parish journals.

**REVENUES**

There is no anticipated effect on revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Rules 13.5.1 and 13.5.2

John R. Rombach  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER  
or Designee