



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 196** SLS 25RS 405  
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
Opp. Chamb. Action:  
  
Proposed Amd.:  
Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 28, 2025	6:26 PM	<b>Author:</b> OWEN, ROBERT
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Judiciary/Corrections		
<b>Subject:</b> Homelessness Court Program/Unauthorized Camping		<b>Analyst:</b> Daniel Druilhet

COURTS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
Provides relative to homelessness. (8/1/25)

Proposed law enacts the Homelessness Court Program Act; authorizes district courts to establish homelessness court programs, in one or more divisions of the district court to which participants are assigned; allows district courts to establish a probation program administered by the presiding judge or judges thereof or by an employee designated by the court; provides guidelines regarding participating in probation programs within homelessness courts; provides for a defendant to have his conviction set aside or prosecution dismissed with successful completion of court-ordered alcohol and drug testing programs under the homelessness court; provides for probation revocation for defendants who do not successfully complete the homelessness court program; provides for the right to a defendant to be represented by counsel at all stages of a criminal prosecution relating to the homelessness court program; provides for considerations to be made by examiners, judges, and district attorneys regarding whether the homelessness court would be in the best interest of justice and of benefit to the defendant and the community; requires a defendant to waive the right to a trial if accepted into the homelessness court program; requires each homelessness court program to develop a method of evaluation to measure its effectiveness, compile the evaluations annually, and transmit them to the judicial administrator of the Supreme Court; creates the crime of unauthorized camping on public property and assesses penalties for violation as follows – on first conviction, imprisonment for no more than six months, or a fine of no more than \$500, or both, and on second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 2 years, with or without hard labor, or a fine of no more than \$1,000.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services (DPS&C – CS), if a person is convicted of unauthorized camping on public property. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation is indeterminable, since it creates a crime, and it is not known how many people will be convicted nor the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions as a result of its potential enactment. Proposed law, on first conviction, is a misdemeanor, while a second or subsequent conviction is a relative felony. Any impact on either state or local expenditures is contingent on whether offenders sustain either a misdemeanor or felony-grade convictions for its violation.

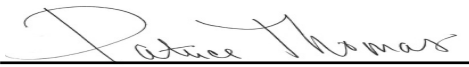
To the extent that offenders sustain a felony-grade conviction for violation of the proposed law, DPS&C-CS will sustain an indeterminable increase in expenditures. For those convicted, sentenced, and then subsequently housed in a state facility, DPS&C-CS will sustain expenditures of \$107.60 per offender per day. For those housed in local facilities, DPS&C-CS will sustain expenditures of \$26.39 per offender per day. DPS&C-CS advises that impacts on offender populations are anticipated to impact the number of offenders held in local facilities, and that in managing its offender population, it seeks to fill all beds in state facilities first, then assigns overflow offenders to local facilities.

To the extent that offenders sustain a misdemeanor conviction for violation of the proposed law, local governing authorities will sustain Local Funds expenditures. 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 and incarcerated in local facilities, nor the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions as a result of its potential enactment. The maximum imprisonment term for unauthorized camping on public property is no more than two years.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	
			Patrice Thomas Deputy Fiscal Officer



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:** Page 2 of 2

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE]


This bill may result in an indeterminable increase in state and/or local expenditures. The bill provides that each district court may authorize the establishment of a homelessness court program, which is permissive (and not mandatory). The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable since it is not known how many judicial districts will actually create these specialized court programs. The specific expenditures associated with the establishment of a homelessness court program are dependent upon the size and scope of the homelessness court. To the extent that the homelessness court involves hearings above the normal current court activity, the district courts will likely experience an increase in expenditures. However, such costs may be mitigated as it is possible that some of the cases that would have otherwise been heard in an existing division will now be transferred and heard in the homelessness court.

In addition, to the extent that clients of mental health, controlled substance, or other related treatment and rehabilitative services receive treatment at a state facility, there could be an indeterminable increase in any state and/or federal costs associated with such treatment. This bill provides that those who are eligible for and enroll in the homelessness court program may access a continuum of alcohol, controlled substance, mental health, suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services, which could result in an indeterminable increase in any state funded treatment programs that may collaborate with the homelessness court.

For the purposes of simplicity, the potential impact of this legislation is reflected above as SGF and local funds.

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**