



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 277** HLS 25RS 914
Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 27, 2025	2:14 PM	Author: JORDAN
Dept./Agy.: State Public Defender, District Attorneys, and Sheriffs		
Subject: Pre-Trial Procedures		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE RE INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to certain pretrial procedures

Current law provides for rules governing first appearances, assignment of defense counsel, bail determinations, preliminary examinations, time restrictions on bills of information and indictment, examinations of witnesses, procedures governing the right to a speedy trial, and issuance and service of subpoenas. Proposed law provides upon a determination of a defendant’s indigency, the defendant has the right to have the court appoint counsel to defend him from his initial appearance until the case’s conclusion; provides that if a court determines that the arrested person is indigent, the court shall appoint qualified counsel to represent him at the preliminary examination; provides that upon motion of the state or the defendant, the transcript of the preliminary examination shall be promptly provided to the state or defense counsel; provides that “conclusion of the case” means the entry of a final judgment in the trial court by conviction, acquittal, or dismissal of all charges and completion of sentencing, if applicable

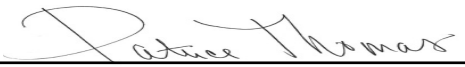
EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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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
Office of the State Public Defender/District Defenders
Proposed law will result in an increase of \$1.9 M (\$1.9 M SGF and \$24,000 Local Funds) expenditures in the Office of the State Public Defender and local district defenders, for additional line defenders, supplemental compensation for existing attorney contracts and additional staff for the adjustments made to representation at first appearance. The proposed law is projected to have a significant impact on workload and associated expenditures in district defender offices, as follows:

Representation at First Appearance		
Item	Quantity	Cost
New Line Defenders Required	35	\$1,896,000
Supplemental Compensation for Existing Attorney Contracts	2	\$ 24,000
Total		\$1,920,000

Note: The Office of the State Public Defender reported that of the 35 district defenders who responded regarding the impact of expenditures to district defender offices, only seven queried responded that their district currently represents defendants at the time of initial appearance (due to representation at first appearance already being included within their practice with some variation of jail call). Twenty-four of the 35 respondents reported that their district does not currently represent indigent persons accused of a crime at the initial appearance (due to operating almost exclusively on a contract system handling a specific scope of work, with contract attorneys that generally maintain multiple contracts across multiple parishes). Moreover, smaller district defender offices are not staffed for court with the frequency required in larger districts.

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

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" 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