



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 644** HLS 25RS 1053
Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 3, 2025 6:09 PM	Author: BROWN, CHAD
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court and Clerks of Court	
Subject: Increasing Assessment for Filing Civil and Criminal Matters	Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

COURTS/COURT COSTS EG +\$347,192 SG RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides for the assessment of a fee for filing civil and criminal matters

Current law provides that in addition to any other filing fee or cost imposed or authorized by law, the clerk of the supreme court and each city, parish, juvenile, family, district, and appellate court shall impose and collect from each party liable for court costs the additional sum of \$0.50 for the initial filing in all civil matters; provides that a person convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor, or violating an ordinance of any local government, including a traffic felony, traffic misdemeanor, or a local traffic violation, shall be assessed an additional \$0.50 as a special court cost, and that these costs shall be imposed by all courts, including mayor’s courts and magistrate courts; provides that all funds collected shall be deposited into a special account transmitted monthly to the supreme court provided that 1/3 of the total collected shall be used solely to defray costs associated with the general growth and program improvement strategies of the Judicial College; requires the supreme court to conduct an annual audit of books and accounts related to fees collected. Proposed law increases the respective court costs for initial filings in all civil matters and special costs in criminal matters to \$1.50; provides that the remaining 2/3 of funds collected shall be used to defray costs associated with coordinated efforts between the Judicial College and the Judiciary Commission for improved education concerning judicial and best practices or other certain expenses of the Judiciary Commission; effective 1/01/26.

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

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.	\$347,192	\$694,384	\$694,384	\$694,384	\$694,384	\$3,124,728
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	\$347,192	\$694,384	\$694,384	\$694,384	\$694,384	\$3,124,728

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

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

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will likely result in an increase of \$347,192 in SGR in the Louisiana Supreme Court in FY 26, with annual increases of \$694,384 in subsequent fiscal years. Proposed law increases initial filings fees in all civil matters and special costs in criminal matters from \$0.50 to \$1.50. These figures are based upon a total of \$347,192 collected (from 694,384 suits and criminal matters filed) by local clerks of court and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court in FY 24. The estimates are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Increase	# Suits	Total Increase
FY 26			
7/1/25 - 12/31/25	\$0	347,192	\$ 0
1/01/26-6/30/26	\$1	347,192	\$347,192
FY 27	\$1	694,384	\$694,384
FY 28	\$1	694,384	\$694,384
FY 29	\$1	694,384	\$694,384
FY 30	\$1	694,384	\$694,384

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>	
<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 checked="" 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