



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 278** HLS 26RS 718
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

Date: April 21, 2026 3:41 PM	Author: EDMONSTON
Dept./Agy.: The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish	
Subject: Live Streaming of Proceedings	Analyst: Elle Craft

COURTS/FAMILY OR +\$281,760 SD EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides rules for live streaming proceedings in The Family Court for East Baton Rouge Parish

Purpose of Bill: This bill provides for live streaming, remote public access to court proceedings, including status conferences, in the Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish. The costs for upgrading the current internet system to provide live streaming, remote access to the public shall be paid from funds in the Court Modernization and Technology Fund.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$281,760	\$13,858	\$14,204	\$14,560	\$14,924	\$339,306
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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

This bill may increase statutorily dedicated expenditures paid from the Court Modernization and Technology Fund by an estimated \$281,760 in FY 2027 and \$13,858 in FY 2028, with costs increasing by approximately 2.5% annually to \$14,924 by FY 2031.

Based on information from the Louisiana Supreme Court, two of the four court rooms for the Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish will need equipment upgrades in order to provide live streaming in FY 2027. These upgrades are expected to cost approximately \$275,000. In addition, all four courtrooms will require live streaming and teleconferencing licenses. These licenses are expected to cost \$6,760 in FY 2027. This reflects a prorated six-month cost, as the bill goes into effect on January 1, 2027, halfway through the 2027 fiscal year. The full annualized cost of \$13,520 will begin in FY 2028, with annual costs increasing by 2.5% annually, reaching \$14,924 annually by FY 2031. These costs will be paid from the Court Modernization and Technology Fund.

Furthermore, this measure may result in an indeterminable increase in local governmental expenditures. Based on information from the Family Court and Louisiana Supreme Court, it is currently unclear whether the Family Court's existing IT staff can absorb the responsibilities related to live streaming. To the extent that current personnel can manage these responsibilities, there will be no additional personnel costs. However, if the increased workload exceeds the capacity of the current staff, the Family Court indicates an additional IT employee could be required at an estimated cost of at least \$48,000 annually. Also, if any additional staff are needed to monitor the proceedings, costs may increase with each new hire. Any additional personnel costs would be paid using local funds rather than the Court Modernization and Technology Fund.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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}

Michael G. Battle
 Manager, Advisory Services