

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 479** HLS 26RS 640
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 29, 2026 10:52 AM	Author: KNOX
Dept./Agy.: Legislative Auditor/Clerks of Courts/Division of Administration	
Subject: Fiscal Truth in Sentencing Act	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge

CRIMINAL/JUSTICE OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Creates the Fiscal Truth in Sentencing Act

Proposed law creates the Fiscal Truth in Sentencing Act; requires each district clerk of court to provide the legislative auditor with no less than quarterly reports with sentencing data (the number of individuals sentenced to confinement per judge presiding, the total number of years of confinement per judge presiding, and the age at the time of sentencing for persons sentenced to 20 years or more); requires the division of administration to report to the legislative auditor the final budget figures for the prior fiscal year for the Department of Public Safety and Correction – Correction Services, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Office of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Municipal Police Supplemental Payments and Deputy Sheriffs’ Supplemental Payments, the Office of the State Public Defender, the Judiciary, District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys; and requires the legislative auditor to produce an annual report that projects the five-year incarceration costs using the aggregated sentencing data along with other relevant data.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	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

Proposed law will result in a \$341,847 increase in SGF expenditures in FY 27, increasing to \$395,158 by FY 31, for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) to collect, prepare, and analyze data to produce an annual report that projects the five-year incarceration costs based on information provided by clerks of courts and the division of administration. The annual report must include information on appropriations for construction and improvements, state debt for prisons and jails, civil judgments and damages awarded in cases related to prisons and jails, and the Corrections Primary and Secondary Plan within the Louisiana State Employees’ Retirement System.

Louisiana Legislative Auditor. The LLA reports that the requirements to collect, prepare, and analyze data of incarceration costs would require an additional three full-time positions: one manager (salary - \$102,500), one senior analyst (salary - \$76,000), and one staff member (salary - \$57,200). LLA reports that additional staff would be necessary due to the complexity of data collection and preparation, specifically related to ensuring any costs included are related to the cost to incarcerate an individual and not related to civil matters, criminal matters that are not seeking to incarcerate an individual, and the time law enforcement officers spend on non-criminal matters. LLA also anticipates needing to conduct extensive research and analysis to determine the appropriate methodology for projecting how court-issued sentences translate into time served and establish trends for historical data. The table below provides a breakdown of the total estimated costs for the three additional staff members.

	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31
Salary	\$235,700	\$245,128	\$254,933	\$265,131	\$275,736
Related Benefits	\$106,147	\$109,273	\$112,524	\$115,906	\$119,422
Total	\$341,847	\$354,401	\$367,457	\$381,037	\$395,158

The LFO is not able to independently verify the LLA’s estimated time or expenditures; however, SGF expenditures are expected to increase and may vary depending on the data structure provided to LLA and the methodology needed to produce the final report. To the extent the additional workload is less than the LLA anticipates, the additional workload may be absorbable, either wholly or partially, using existing staff and resources, or may be achievable with fewer than three new positions.

Clerks of Court. Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in workload for the Louisiana Clerks of Court. Proposed law requires clerks to submit the number of individuals sentenced to confinement per judge presiding, the total number of years of confinement per judge presiding, and the age of persons who were sentenced to 20 years or more. To the extent the Clerk of Courts has to prepare data into the structure proposed by the proposed law, there will be an increase in workload. The exact impact of the proposed law on workload and expenditures is indeterminable and likely will vary across parishes.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate
 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