



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 470 HLS 15RS 691
Bill Text Version: ORIGINAL
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 10, 2015 2:11 PM
Author: MIGUEZ
Dept./Agy.: Sixteenth Judicial District
Subject: Court Costs
Analyst: Bobby Trahan

COURTS/COURT COSTS OR +\$387,500 LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides for an increase in court costs for the Sixteenth Judicial District Court's Judicial Expense Fund

Purpose of Bill: This measure authorizes the Sixteenth Judicial District Court (JDC) to increase court costs from an amount not to exceed \$15 to an amount not to exceed \$35 on filing of any type of civil suit or proceeding; and to increase court cost in all criminal cases against every defendant who is convicted after trial or after he pleads guilty or who forfeits his bond from an amount not to exceed \$5 to an amount not to exceed \$25.

As required by state law, the 16th JDC submitted a proposal to the Judicial Review Council to review their proposed increases in court costs. The Judicial Review Council has reviewed their proposal and found that the proposed costs appear to meet the applicable guidelines.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 5 -YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total. A second table below shows REVENUES with similar columns and rows, including Local Funds and Annual Total.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

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

An official with the 16th JDC indicated there is no expenditure increase or decrease anticipated by the 16th JDC as a result of this bill.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This measure may increase local government revenues for the 16th JDC by approximately \$387,500 annually.

Information obtained from the 16th JDC indicates:

- a) that an average of 4,543 civil suits were filed during the last three fiscal years, and
b) there was an average of 14,832 criminal cases, in which the defendant was convicted after trial, or plead guilty, or forfeited his bond, during the last three fiscal years.

This is an average of 19,375 civil suits and criminal cases during the last three fiscal years. Multiplying that number by the additional \$20 fee gives an additional \$387,500 in court cost that could be collected annually.

- Senate Dual Referral Rules House
13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}
13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}
6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {H & S}
6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
Michael G. Battle
Manager, Advisory Services