



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 158** SLS 20RS 341
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 19, 2020 4:37 PM	Author: LUNEAU
Dept./Agy.: Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Boards	Analyst: Benjamin LeBlanc
Subject: Attorney Fees	

CIVIL SERVICE

OR INCREASE LF EX See Note

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Provides for an increase in allowable attorney fees in cases of appeal taken by an employee in the municipal fire and police classified civil service. (gov siq)

Purpose of the Bill: This bill increases the maximum amount an attorney representing an appealing fire or police civil service employee can be awarded from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in instances where the civil service board overturns an appointing authority’s disciplinary action based on the lack of just cause. This bill only affects municipalities with populations between 13,000 and 250,000 according to the latest regular federal decennial census of 2010, thereby possibly affecting 21 cities.

EXPENDITURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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 local government expenditures by an indeterminable amount. Expenditure increases are indeterminable due to the unpredictable nature of how many appeals will result in board hearings where the board overturns the decisions of the appointing authorities (based on no just cause), and the amount of attorney fees awarded. In an effort to provide information on the possible number of applicable appeals and fiscal impact, we contacted officials from several municipal fire and police civil service boards and obtained the following information:

City of Baton Rouge had 11 appeal hearings in the past 3 years where the Board overturned 4. If this pattern remains constant, this bill could result in a potential increase of \$16,000 over a 3 year period for the City of Baton Rouge.

City of Shreveport had 23 appeal hearings in the past 3 years where the Board overturned 19 disciplinary actions taken by the appointing authority (a potential increase of \$76,000 over a 3 year period for the City of Shreveport).

City of Alexandria had 9 appeal hearings in the past 3 years where the Board overturned 3 disciplinary actions taken by the appointing authority (a potential increase of \$12,000 over a 3 year period for the City of Alexandria).

City of Monroe had 13 appeal hearings in the past 3 years where the Board overturned 1 disciplinary action taken by the appointing authority (a potential increase of \$4,000 over a 3 year period for the City of Monroe).

Cities of Ruston & Sulphur have not had an appeals hearing in 3 years. If the hearing results of the past 3 years remain constant, this bill would have no fiscal impact on the expenditures for the Cities of Ruston & Sulphur.

City of Crowley has had 2 appeals hearing in the past 3 years where the Board overturned 1 disciplinary action taken by the appointing authority (a potential increase of \$4,000 over a 3 year period for the City of Crowley).

City of West Monroe has had 1 appeals hearing in the past 3 years and in that hearing the Board overturned the appointing authority’s disciplinary action (a potential increase of \$4,000 over a 3 year period for the City of West Monroe).

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