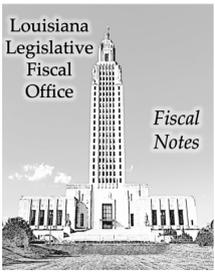


LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 754** HLS 24RS 1011

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 12, 2024 6:40 PM	Author: LAFLEUR
Dept./Agy.: 19th Judicial District Court	Analyst: Daniel Druilhet
Subject: Complex Litigation Section Pilot Program	

COURTS/COURT COSTS OR +\$120,000 LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to filing fees for the Complex Litigation Section Pilot Program in the 19th JDC

Proposed law creates the Complex Litigation Section Pilot Program; provides that the clerk of court of East Baton Rouge Parish may establish a Complex Litigation Fund to provide for additional filing fees for complex litigation cases; provides that the clerk of court may demand and receive a filing fee of \$200 for each case referred to the Complex Litigation Section; provides that the clerk of court shall place all sums collected or received under the program in a separate account designated as the Complex Litigation Section Fund to be used for any operating expenses of the Complex Litigation Section (including salaries); mandates that the clerk keep accurate records and cause to be conducted an audit of the fund and books and accounts relating to the fund and file the audit with the office of the legislative auditor to be available for public inspection; provides that the pilot program shall be effective for a period of two years, unless extended by the legislature.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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	\$40,500	\$40,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$81,000
Annual Total	\$40,500	\$40,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$81,000

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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	\$120,000	SEE BELOW	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Annual Total	\$120,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in \$40,500 in Local Funds expenditures in the Nineteenth Judicial District Clerk, to the extent that the clerk is required to conduct an audit of the Complex Litigation Section Fund for the period of time during which the pilot program is in effect. The Nineteenth Judicial District Court currently expends \$40,500 to conduct an annual audit of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court Expense Fund. For any additional audits required of any new judicial expense funds in operation by the court, the Nineteenth Judicial District Court expects to expend an equivalent amount to conduct annual audits.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an increase of no less than \$120,000 in revenues in FY 25 in the 19th Judicial District Court, associated with the receipt of additional filing fees for cases designated as complex litigation cases. Currently, there is no data collected by the 19th Judicial District Court to determine the number of cases that would potentially be impacted with the enactment of the proposed law, but there are over 600 cases involving litigation issues related to hurricanes that have been referred to the Complex Litigation Section. If additional filing fees were assessed for each of these cases referred to the pilot program, Local revenues of no less than \$120,000 (600 x \$200) would be generated in FY 25 for the 19th Judicial District Court Complex Litigation Fund.

Note: The 19th JDC advises that there are 15,000 civil case filings that it processes each year, and that there is presently no indicator for the Clerk of Court to identify the number of civil matters that would be referred to the Complex Litigation Section, as the proposed law requires a subject review of each matter.

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}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer