



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 252** HLS 25RS 933
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 7, 2025	7:00 PM	Author: MOORE
Dept./Agy.: Clerks of Court		
Subject: Financial Obligations of Criminal Defendants		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

CRIMINAL/PENALTIES OR DECREASE LF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to the financial obligations of criminal offenders

Current law provides for a determination of substantial financial hardship relative to the imposition and enforcement of financial obligations imposed upon an offender as part of a criminal sentence, incarceration, or as a condition of the offender’s release on probation or parole; applies only to defendants convicted of offenses classified as felonies under current law. Proposed law adds misdemeanors as an offense to which current law applies.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	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

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	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	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	
Annual Total						

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

REVENUE EXPLANATION
Office of the State Public Defender - District Defenders
Proposed law will result in an indeterminable decrease in Local revenues to district defender offices of the public defender relative to special court costs assessed for misdemeanor convictions. Proposed law has the effect of potentially waiving all or any portion of the financial obligation assessed for costs of court for adults convicted of misdemeanors. For example, in FY 24, district defender offices received \$18.2 M in Local revenues from special court costs assessed upon conviction. Of this \$18.2 M, 76% are derived from traffic tickets, leaving a remaining \$4.4 M in revenues generated for conviction user fees specific to adult felony and misdemeanor convictions. Adult misdemeanors represent 41.37% of all cases closed in FY 24, and applying this percentage to the remaining \$4.4 M in revenues from conviction user fees, the proposed law’s impact may result in a reduction to Local revenues to district defender offices at \$1.8 M.

Total Conviction User Fees - FY 24 \$18,233,251
Traffic Tickets (76%) - x 0.76 \$13,857,271
Total CUF (Adult Felonies and Misdemeanors) \$ 4,375,980

Adult Misdemeanor CUFs (41.37%) - x 0.4137 = \$ 1,810,343

Note: The above figure may be reduced or increased, contingent on the total amount of conviction user fees attributable to adult misdemeanor convictions in any fiscal year, and the number of instances in which a court provides a partial waiver of court costs or establishes payment plans for adult misdemeanor convictions after a judicial determination is made of substantial financial hardship. Revenue generated from conviction user fees fluctuates, year to year.

Clerks of Court
Proposed law will result in an indeterminable decrease in Local revenues to clerks of court relative to court costs assessed for adult misdemeanor offenses. Proposed law has the effect of waiving \$50 in costs normally assessed by clerks of court for each adult misdemeanor criminal filing. The exact fiscal impact to Local revenues to clerks of court is indeterminable, because it is unknown the number of adult misdemeanor filings that will occur in the clerks of court and the number of instances in which a court provides a partial waiver of court costs or establishes payment plans for adult misdemeanor convictions after a judicial determination is made of substantial financial hardship.

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer