

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 211** HLS 26RS 865
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 8, 2026	6:08 PM	Author: VILLIO
Dept./Agy.: LDH, Judiciary, Corrections, DA's, Public Defenders, and AG		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet
Subject: Homelessness Court Program		

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 OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX
 Provides relative to the creation, administration, and eligibility requirements of the Homelessness Court program

Proposed law authorizes each district court by rule to designate one or more divisions as a Homelessness Court program, and for its purpose, goals, creation, participation eligibility, screening, assessments, and probationary conditions; provides for the right for a defendant to legal counsel, duties of the defendant, court and DA, and disposition of the defendant upon satisfactory completion of or failure to complete the program; creates the crime of unauthorized camping on public property and assesses six months imprisonment, or a fine of no more than \$500, or both, on first conviction, and on second or subsequent conviction, a fine of no more than \$1,000 and no less than one nor more than two years imprisonment, with or without hard labor; provides that an offender in violation of unauthorized camping on public property may be eligible for the program, if it is available in the jurisdiction and the offender meets requirements set forth for participation; provides that no political subdivision shall authorize any person to regularly engage in public camping on a public property; provides that a political subdivision may by majority vote of the political subdivision's governing body, designate property owned by the political subdivision or municipality to be used for a continuous period of no longer than one year for public camping, subject to certain conditions, and that the political subdivision shall notify the department within 10 days of designating the property to be used for that purpose, subject to certain standards; provides that certain persons (including the AG) may bring an injunction against the political subdivision or applicable municipality to prevent unauthorized public camping, and that the court may award reasonable expenses in bringing the civil action; provides for housing and services for homeless individuals.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	

Annual Total

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services (DPS&C – CS), if a person is convicted of unauthorized camping on public property. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation is indeterminable, since it creates a crime, and it is not known how many people will be convicted, nor the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions, as a result of its potential enactment. Proposed law, on first conviction, is a misdemeanor, while a second or subsequent conviction is a relative felony. Any impact on either state or local expenditures is contingent on whether offenders sustain either a misdemeanor or felony-grade convictions for their violation.

To the extent that offenders sustain a felony-grade conviction for violation of the proposed law, DPS&C-CS will sustain an indeterminable increase in expenditures. For those convicted, sentenced, and then subsequently housed in a state facility, DPS&C-CS will sustain expenditures of \$107.60 per offender per day. For those housed in local facilities, DPS&C-CS will sustain expenditures of \$26.39 per offender per day. DPS&C-CS advises that impacts on offender populations are anticipated to impact the number of offenders held in local facilities, and that in managing its offender population, it seeks to fill all beds in state facilities first, then assigns overflow offenders to local facilities.

To the extent that offenders sustain a misdemeanor conviction for violation of the proposed law, local governing authorities will sustain Local Funds expenditures. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation to local governing authorities is indeterminable, since it is not known how many people will be convicted and incarcerated in local facilities, nor the length of the sentences assessed with those convictions as a result of its potential enactment. The maximum imprisonment term for unauthorized camping on public property is no more than two years.

This bill may result in an indeterminable increase in state and/or local expenditures. The bill provides that each district court may authorize the establishment of a homelessness court program, which is permissive (and not mandatory). The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable since it is not known how many judicial districts will actually create these specialized court programs. The specific expenditures associated with the establishment of a homelessness court program are dependent upon the size and scope of the homelessness court. To the extent that the homelessness court involves hearings above the normal current court activity, the district courts will likely experience an increase in expenditures. However, such costs may be mitigated, as it is possible that some of the cases that would have otherwise been heard in an existing division will now be transferred and heard in the homelessness court.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in local revenues as a result of convictions for unauthorized camping on public property. The exact fiscal impact of the passage of this legislation on local revenue is indeterminable, as the fines that would be imposed on those convicted are optional, and the amount of fines, if imposed, may vary. The potential revenue will accrue to the local governing authority.

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



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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Louisiana Department of Health

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable impact to SGF expenditures in the Louisiana Department of Health and Local Funds expenditures, to the extent that clients of mental health, controlled substance, or other related treatment and rehabilitative services receive treatment at a state facility. There could be an indeterminable increase in any state and/or federal costs associated with such treatment. This bill provides that those who are eligible for and enroll in the homelessness court program may access a continuum of alcohol, controlled substance, mental health, suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services, which could result in an indeterminable increase in any state funded treatment programs that may collaborate with the homelessness court.

For the purposes of simplicity, the potential impact of this legislation is reflected above as SGF and local funds.

Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable impact to SGF expenditures in the Office of the State Fire Marshall, to the extent that it assists with housing and services for individuals experiencing homelessness by conducting inspections of emergency shelters, community facilities, group homes, and halfway houses to verify that the housing options available to individuals experiencing homelessness are safe and sanitary. The agency indicates that the impact is indeterminable because there is no way to estimate the number of emergency shelters, community facilities, group homes, and halfway houses that will require annual inspections resulting from this measure.

District Attorneys, Attorney General, and District Courts

Proposed law may result in an increase in workload in the Office of the Attorney General (AG) and local district attorneys (DAs), to the extent that the AG and DAs pursue civil suits to enjoin political subdivisions or municipalities for failure to adhere to certain conditions (security, sanitation, behavioral health, and prohibition against use of illegal substances) after designating certain property as available for use for a continuous period of no longer than one year. The exact fiscal impact to the AG and DAs is indeterminable, as it is unknown the number of instances in which the AG and DAs will pursue injunctions under the proposed law.

Additionally, along with political civil litigation pursued by AGs and DAs, local courts may experience an increased caseload associated with residents, business owners, and non-profit organizations who seek to pursue civil suits to enjoin political subdivisions or municipalities for failure to adhere to certain conditions (security, sanitation, behavioral health, and prohibition against use of illegal substances) after designating certain property as available for use for a continuous period of no longer than one year. The exact fiscal impact to Local funds expenditures by courts is indeterminable, as it is unknown the impact to caseload in local courts that will occur under the proposed law.

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}


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