



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 278** HLS 26RS 718  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 14, 2026 12:58 PM	<b>Author:</b> EDMONSTON
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish	
<b>Subject:</b> Live Streaming of Proceedings	<b>Analyst:</b> Elle Craft

COURTS/FAMILY OR +\$281,760 SD EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides rules for live streaming proceedings in The Family Court for East Baton Rouge Parish

**Purpose of Bill:** This bill provides for live streaming, remote public access to court proceedings, including status conference, in The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish. The costs for upgrading the current internet system to provide live streaming, remote access to the public shall be paid from funds in the Court Modernization and Technology Fund.

EXPENDITURES	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	<b>\$281,760</b>	<b>\$13,858</b>	<b>\$14,204</b>	<b>\$14,560</b>	<b>\$14,924</b>	<b>\$339,306</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**This bill may increase statutorily dedicated expenditures paid from the Court Modernization and Technology Fund by an estimated \$281,760 in FY 2027 and \$13,858 in FY 2028, with costs increasing by approximately 2.5% annually to \$14,924 by FY 2031.**

Based on information from the Louisiana Supreme Court, two of the four court rooms for the Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish will need equipment upgrades in order to provide live streaming in FY 2027. These upgrades are expected to cost approximately \$275,000. In addition, all four courtrooms will require live streaming and teleconferencing licenses. These licenses are expected to cost \$6,760 in FY 2027. This reflects a prorated six-month cost, as the bill goes into effect on January 1, 2027, halfway through the 2027 fiscal year. The full annualized cost of \$13,520 will begin in FY 2028, with annual costs increasing by 2.5% annually, reaching \$14,924 annually by FY 2031. These costs will be paid from the Court Modernization and Technology Fund.

Furthermore, this measure may result in an indeterminable increase in local governmental expenditures. Based on information from the Family Court and Louisiana Supreme Court, it is currently unclear whether the Family Court's existing IT staff can absorb the responsibilities related to live streaming. To the extent that current personnel can manage these responsibilities, there will be no additional personnel costs. However, if the increased workload exceeds the capacity of the current staff, the Family Court indicates an additional IT employee could be required at an estimated cost of at least \$48,000 annually. Personnel costs, if any, would be paid using local funds rather than the Court Modernization and Technology Fund.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

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}

**Michael G. Battle**  
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