

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6579**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 157**

**NOTE PREPARED: Dec 14, 2024**  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Protection of Property Rights.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Gaskill  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill defines "squatter" as an individual who occupies the property of another and who does not have and has never had: (1) a rental agreement; (2) permission of the owner; or (3) another legal interest in the property. It permits a property owner to execute an affidavit stating that a squatter is occupying the person's property, and requires a law enforcement agency to dispatch one or more law enforcement officers to remove the squatter within 48 hours (or a later period if necessary for reasons of public safety). It also requires a dispatched law enforcement officer to remove the squatter from the property unless the law enforcement officer discovers credible written evidence that the person is not a squatter.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** This bill's provisions may result in an increase in both the workload and costs for local law enforcement agencies since the bill provides an additional process for real property owners to remove individuals from their property beyond the current eviction statutes and processes. The actual fiscal impact will vary from county to county and will be determined by the number of cases involving individuals defined as a "squatter" under the bill's provisions.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local Law Enforcement Agencies.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** James Johnson, 317-232-9869.