



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 13** HLS 221ES 16
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: February 14, 2022 9:03 AM **Author:** CARTER, WILFORD
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court **Analyst:** Rebecca Robinson
Subject: Increase number of associate justices

JUDGES/SUPREME COURT OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 (Constitutional Amendment) Increases the number of associate supreme court justices and increases the required number of justices concurring in order to render judgment (Item #6)
 Proposed constitutional amendment increases the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six associate justices to eight (plus the Chief Justice), five of whom must concur to render judgment. Proposes to increase the supreme court districts from at least six to at least nine districts. Proposes that the measure be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8, 2022.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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						
REVENUES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be an increase in SGF expenditures for the Louisiana Supreme Court (LSC) if this constitutional amendment is approved by the voters in November 2022. To the extent the voters approve the measure, the LSC will increase its associate justices from six to eight. The LSC reports the addition of two associate justices will require six additional law clerks and two administrative assistants, and renovations to existing facilities to accommodate additional office space. LSC estimates there will be an increase in one-time expenditures of \$500,000 for renovations of office space at the Supreme Court and \$74,160 for acquisition of computers, office furniture, and the phone system. LSC estimates recurring annual expenses of approximately \$1.7 M. Costs are expected to increase marginally each year due to scheduled judicial salary increases, merit-based pay increases for support staff and inflationary costs for operating expenses.

Recurring Annual Expenditures:

\$645,212 Salaries and related benefits for 2 associate justices
 \$794,855 Salaries and related benefits for 6 law clerks
 \$173,861 Salaries and related benefits for 2 administrative assistants
 \$2,046 Office supplies
 \$25,816 Operating expenses
 \$52,551 Travel expenses
 \$10,292 Office equipment
 \$1,704,633

Note: Proposed constitutional amendment is silent as to effective date. The LSC made the following assumptions: renovations and equipment acquisition would occur in FY 23; personnel expenses and annualized expenses for office supplies, operating expenses, travel expenses, and office equipment would begin in FY 24. Any delay in seating the two new justices would impact expenditures accordingly.

Note: Proposed constitutional amendment contemplates increasing the number of supreme court districts from at least six to at least nine districts. There are currently seven districts, which would be a net increase of two districts. The Secretary of State may incur minimal ballot printing costs associated with this measure. As a regular practice, the Secretary of State typically budgets for up to 10 constitutional amendments and statewide propositions for the fall statewide elections. Any expenditure impact would be realized in FY 23. The Secretary of State would likely realize programming costs to align voting maps and machines to the new configuration. The amount of the total cost is unknown, but likely to be marginal because the department will be undertaking these same actions for other redistricting actions.

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}

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