

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 781

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

APPROPRIATIONS: Appropriates funds for the expenses of the judiciary for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

1 AN ACT

2 To appropriate funds to defray the expenses of the Louisiana Judiciary, including the  
3 Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, Criminal District Court of Orleans  
4 Parish, and other courts; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. A. The sum of Two Hundred Thirteen Million Seven Hundred Forty-Five  
8 Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Nine (\$213,745,869) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be  
9 necessary, is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of the judiciary, including the  
10 Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, the District Courts, the Criminal District Court of Orleans  
11 Parish, and of the other courts.

12 B. The total amount herein appropriated is hereby allocated to provide as follows:

13 **03-8170 SUPREME COURT**

14 **Program Description:** *The Supreme Court has general supervisory jurisdiction over all lower courts. It may establish procedural and administrative rules not in conflict with law and may assign a sitting or retired judge to any court. The Supreme Court has sole authority to provide by rule for appointments of attorneys as temporary or ad hoc judges. It considers applications for writs to review individual cases, and has criminal and other appellate jurisdiction. The Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction of disciplinary proceedings against lawyers, recommendations of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana for the discipline of judges, and fact questions affecting its appellate jurisdiction. It has inherent authority to regulate the legal profession and to promulgate and update the Code of Judicial Conduct. The court also provides judicial training through the Judicial College and works to improve the administration of justice.*

		<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
24			
25	01 Salaries of one (1) Chief Justice and		
26	six (6) Associate Justices of the		
27	Supreme Court, as provided by		
28	R.S. 13:102	\$ 1,282,315	\$ 1,381,774

1	02	Salaries and other expenses of the			
2		Supreme Court Proper and salary of			
3		the Crier of the Supreme Court	\$	11,941,695	\$ 12,813,962
4	03	Expenses of Judicial Administrator's			
5		Office and of the Judiciary			
6		Commission provided for in Article V,			
7		Section 25 of the Constitution of			
8		Louisiana and under the provisions of			
9		R.S. 13:32 et seq.			
10	A.	Expenses of Judicial			
11		Administrator's Office	\$	5,799,573	\$ 5,999,379
12		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Judicial Administrator's Office assists the Supreme Court in the</i>			
13		<i>administration of the state court system. It staffs the Judicial Council and the Judiciary Commission of</i>			
14		<i>Louisiana. Through the Judicial Council, it performs studies and makes recommendations for the creation</i>			
15		<i>of new judgeships and for improving the administration of justice. The Judicial Administrator's Office</i>			
16		<i>provides payroll and other fiscal services to the Judiciary, including the administration of a judicial</i>			
17		<i>retirement system; support for the Supreme Court and Appellate Court human resource system; and</i>			
18		<i>support for judicial branch reporting obligations. The Judicial Administrator's Office also manages the</i>			
19		<i>ad hoc judgeship system, monitors cases under advisement, provides support for initiatives to ensure</i>			
20		<i>access to the courts for limited English proficiency individuals; provides outreach services to state and</i>			
21		<i>local courts, applies for and administers grants to improve judicial administration; and staffs the</i>			
22		<i>Committee on Judicial Ethics. The Judicial Administrator's office administers several programs, including</i>			
23		<i>the Supreme Court Drug Court / Specialty Court Office, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, and</i>			
24		<i>CASA and FINS through the Division of Children and Families. The Judicial Administrator's office also</i>			
25		<i>provides staff support for the Louisiana Judicial College, and performs numerous legal services for the</i>			
26		<i>Supreme Court and the Judiciary.</i>			
27	B.	Expenses of Judiciary Commission	\$	2,210,912	\$ 2,351,156
28		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana is a constitutional body established under</i>			
29		<i>Article V, Section 25 of the Constitution of 1974 to accept, screen, investigate, and prosecute complaints</i>			
30		<i>of judicial misconduct. As part of its authority, it may recommend to the Supreme Court the censure,</i>			
31		<i>suspension, removal from office, or involuntary retirement of any judge for ethical misconduct.</i>			
32	C.	Court Reporters; Statistical			
33		Reporting Systems	\$	362,299	\$ 380,536
34	D.	Dues to National Center for			
35		State Courts	\$	186,000	\$ 186,000
36	04	Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary			
37		Board, as per Louisiana Supreme			
38		Court Rule XIX	\$	3,000	\$ 3,000
39	05	Compensation and expenses of retired			
40		judges assigned under Article V,			
41		Section 5(A) of the Constitution of			
42		Louisiana, be it more or less			
43		estimated at	\$	873,866	\$ 917,559
44	06	Law Library of Louisiana for salaries,			
45		services, supplies, maintenance, repairs,			
46		and equipment	\$	1,868,758	\$ 2,010,898
47		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Law Library of Louisiana serves the legal information needs of the state</i>			
48		<i>judiciary, and is open to members of the bar and public.</i>			
49	07	Salaries and expenses of transferred			
50		judges assigned under Article V,			
51		Section 5(A) of the Constitution,			
52		be it more or less estimated as	\$	75,000	\$ 78,750

1	08	Retirement pay for services rendered by			
2		justices and judges of all courts, as			
3		provided by R.S. 11:1358	\$	527,000	\$ 548,080
4	09	Pensions for widows of justices and			
5		judges of all courts, as provided by			
6		R.S. 11:1371 and R.S. 11:1381, be it			
7		more or less estimated at	\$	715,000	\$ 730,494
8	10	Judicial College	\$	266,227	\$ 283,830
9		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Judicial College was established by order of the Supreme Court in 1976 to</i>			
10		<i>provide continuing legal education to Louisiana judges.</i>			
11	11	State contribution to judicial			
12		retirement provided for in Article V,			
13		Section 23 of the Constitution and			
14		R.S. 11:551 et seq., be it more or			
15		less estimated at	\$	22,166,383	\$ 22,170,013
16	12	Civil commitment matters as			
17		required by R.S. 28:54	\$	345,335	\$ 405,088
18	13	Paul M. Hebert Law Center for			
19		expenses of storage of appellate			
20		court records	\$	60,000	\$ 60,000
21	14	Funding for statewide operations of the			
22		Louisiana Protective Order Registry			
23		(R.S. 46:2136.2) under the Case			
24		Management Information System	\$	1,243,914	\$ 1,593,127
25	15	Information Technology	\$	2,053,167	\$ 2,495,770
26	16	Operational expenses of			
27		the Families in Need of Services			
28		Program (FINS)	\$	2,358,111	\$ 3,219,018
29		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The mission of the FINS Assistance Program is to assist local FINS processes by</i>			
30		<i>developing and implementing a needs-based allocation formula; developing, implementing, and mandating</i>			
31		<i>the use of a uniform data system for tracking, managing, and reporting FINS informal cases; developing</i>			
32		<i>and mandating the use of programmatic standards; developing, implementing, and reporting performance</i>			
33		<i>indicators and measures; requiring and monitoring periodic fiscal reports and financial accountability;</i>			
34		<i>and, generally supervising and assisting local FINS processes in other ways.</i>			
35					
36	17	Louisiana Drug and Specialty Courts	\$	15,775,458	\$ 16,643,558
37		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>Louisiana Drug and Specialty Courts, such as Drug/DWI Treatment Courts,</i>			
38		<i>authorized in 1977 by R.S. 13:5301-5304; Reentry Courts, authorized in 2010 by R.S. 13:5401; Mental</i>			
39		<i>Health Courts, authorized in 2013 by R.S. 13:5353 - 5358; Swift and Certain Program, authorized by R.S.</i>			
40		<i>13:5371; and Veterans Treatment Courts, authorized in 2014 by R.S. 13:5361 - 5368, are proven and</i>			
41		<i>effective alternatives to traditional criminal justice interventions. These programs provide integrated</i>			
42		<i>treatment for substance use and mental health disorders, including the appropriate use of sanctions and</i>			
43		<i>incentives along with case management, to place participants in need of services into appropriate</i>			
44		<i>community-based and judicially supervised rehabilitation programs. Clients are regularly tested and</i>			
45		<i>monitored for compliance with educational, employment, and treatment requirements pursuant to current</i>			
46		<i>best practices and the proven national model.</i>			
47	18	Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$	7,350,304	\$ 8,052,692
48		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The purpose of the CASA Assistance Program is to promote timely placement of</i>			
49		<i>children in need of care in permanent, safe and stable homes, in accordance with the provisions of</i>			
50		<i>Children's Code articles 424-426. Services are provided through local CASA programs which recruit,</i>			

1 *screen, train and supervise community advocates. Upon appointment by the trial judge, qualified*  
 2 *advocates serve children by providing independent factual information to the judge, advocating for the best*  
 3 *interest of the children, monitoring cases to which they have been assigned, and advising and assisting the*  
 4 *judge in the determination of the best interest of the children involved.*

5 19 Judges' supplemental compensation  
 6 R.S. 13:10.3, be it more or less  
 7 estimated at \$ 6,223,724 \$ 7,785,844

8 **Program Description:** *The Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund was established by the Legislature*  
 9 *in 1985 to fund salary supplements and salary-related expenses to judges and commissioners. The funding*  
 10 *source is a non-refundable filing fee assessed on civil filings as provided in R.S. 13:10.3.*

11 20 Case Management Information System,  
 12 Article 887(F) of the Code of Criminal  
 13 Procedure, be it more or less  
 14 estimated at \$ 4,017,201 \$ 4,057,080

15 **Program Description:** *The Case Management Information System (CMIS) was created by the Supreme*  
 16 *Court in 1993 to provide a statewide information system for tracking and managing criminal, civil,*  
 17 *juvenile, traffic, and appellate cases as well as protective orders. Data is received from courts statewide,*  
 18 *transferred to the CMIS repository, and made available to courts and executive branch agencies.*  
 19 *Additional information will also be available from the Department of Public Safety & Corrections. CMIS*  
 20 *is funded from a court cost assessed on all criminal and traffic convictions as provided under*  
 21 *C.Cr.P.887(F).*

22 TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$ 87,705,242 \$ 94,167,608

23 MEANS OF FINANCE:  
 24 State General Fund (Direct) \$ 68,071,467 \$ 72,931,834  
 25 State General Fund by:  
 26 Interagency Transfers \$ 9,392,850 \$ 9,392,850  
 27 Statutory Dedications:  
 28 Judges' Supplemental Compensation  
 29 Fund \$ 6,223,724 \$ 7,785,844  
 30 Trial Court Case Management  
 31 Information Fund \$ 4,017,201 \$ 4,057,080

32 TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING \$ 87,705,242 \$ 94,167,608

33 **03-8171 COURTS OF APPEAL**

34 **Program Description:** *The five courts of appeal, domiciled in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lake Charles,*  
 35 *New Orleans, and Gretna, have supervisory jurisdiction over all cases arising within their respective*  
 36 *circuits, subject to the general supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Each court of appeal also*  
 37 *has appellate jurisdiction over all civil matters, all matters appealed from family and juvenile courts, and*  
 38 *all criminal cases triable by a jury which arise within its circuit, except for those cases appealable directly*  
 39 *to the Supreme Court or to the district courts.*

		<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
40			
41	01 Salaries of five (5) Chief Judges		
42	and forty-eight (48) Judges of		
43	the Courts of Appeal, R.S. 13:311	\$ 9,022,841	\$ 9,901,650
44	02 Salaries and expenses of operation		
45	and maintenance of the Court of		
46	appeal, First Circuit	\$ 11,279,856	\$ 11,902,319
47	03 Salaries and expenses of operation		
48	and maintenance of the Court of		
49	appeal, Second Circuit	\$ 6,378,931	\$ 6,764,817

1	04	Salaries and expenses of operation		
2		and maintenance of the Court of		
3		appeal, Third Circuit	\$ 9,691,207	\$ 10,310,148
4	05	Salaries and expenses of operation		
5		and maintenance of the Court of		
6		Appeal, Fourth Circuit	\$ 9,011,897	\$ 9,694,031
7	06	Salaries and expenses of operation		
8		and maintenance of the Court of		
9		Appeal, Fifth Circuit	<u>\$ 6,602,212</u>	<u>\$ 7,257,673</u>
10		TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	<u>\$ 51,986,944</u>	<u>\$ 55,830,638</u>
11		MEANS OF FINANCE:		
12		State General Fund (Direct)	<u>\$ 51,986,944</u>	<u>\$ 55,830,638</u>
13		TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	<u>\$ 51,986,944</u>	<u>\$ 55,830,638</u>

14 **03-8172 DISTRICT COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS**  
15 **REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

16 ***Program Description:** There are forty-one district courts in Louisiana that have general jurisdiction over*  
17 *all matters within their territorial limits, except in those judicial districts (the 1st, the 19th, and the 24th*  
18 *Judicial Districts) where family and juvenile courts have exclusive jurisdiction over certain types of cases*  
19 *and except in Orleans Parish where there are separate courts exercising civil, criminal, and juvenile*  
20 *jurisdictions. In certain cases, the forty-one general jurisdiction courts have concurrent jurisdiction with*  
21 *justices of the peace and parish courts. The district courts generally have appellate jurisdiction of*  
22 *criminal cases tried by city, parish, municipal, traffic, and mayors' courts, except in certain cases. The*  
23 *district courts also have appellate jurisdiction over justices of the peace in parishes where no parish courts*  
24 *exist. The Civil District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction of all civil cases in that parish. The*  
25 *Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction over all criminal cases in that parish. It also*  
26 *has general supervisory jurisdiction over the municipal and traffic court in Orleans Parish. The Family*  
27 *Court of East Baton Rouge Parish has exclusive jurisdiction of many domestic cases in that parish. The*  
28 *four juvenile courts located in Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans parishes have exclusive*  
29 *jurisdiction of juvenile cases in their respective parishes.*

			<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
30				
31	01	Salaries of one hundred ninety-one		
32		(191) District Judges as provided		
33		by R.S. 13:691	\$ 31,159,398	\$ 33,751,199
34	02	Office and travel expenses of District		
35		Judges as provided by R.S. 13:698		
36		and R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$ 1,285,250	\$ 1,299,750
37	03	Salaries of fourteen (14) Judges of		
38		Civil District Court, Orleans Parish,		
39		as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$ 2,273,223	\$ 2,462,307
40	04	Expenses of Judges of Civil District		
41		Court, Parish of Orleans, for salaries		
42		of stenographers, clerks, law books,		
43		stationery, telephone, and like		
44		expenses as provided by R.S. 13:698	\$ 80,500	\$ 80,500
45	05	Salaries of two (2) Court Reporters		
46		of the Twentieth Judicial District Court,		
47		including retirement contributions, as		
48		provided by R.S. 13:966.1	\$ 114,514	\$ 114,098
49	06	Clerk of Civil District Court, Orleans		
50		Parish, as provided by R.S. 13:1212(A)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

1	07	State share of Group, Workers'			
2		Compensation, General Liability, and			
3		Property Insurance Premiums as			
4		provided by R.S. 42:851	\$	8,161,271	\$ 9,307,095
5	08	Salaries of two (2) commissioners of			
6		the Nineteenth Judicial District and			
7		one (1) commissioner of the Fifteenth			
8		Judicial District as provided by			
9		R.S. 13:712 and R.S. 13:715,			
10		respectively	\$	650,843	\$ 689,813
11	09	Office expenses for the Judicial			
12		Expense Fund of the Nineteenth Judicial			
13		District Court as provided by			
14		R.S. 13:711-713	\$	447,975	\$ 567,875
15	10	Office expenses for the Judicial			
16		Expense Fund of the Fifteenth			
17		Judicial District Court as provided			
18		by R.S. 13:714-716	\$	303,754	\$ 317,343
19	11	Law Clerk, Twentieth Judicial District			
20		Court as provided by Act 747 of 1977	\$	49,311	\$ 49,311
21	12	For the expenses of the Judicial Expense			
22		Fund, Tenth Judicial District Court as			
23		provided by Act 57 of 2006	\$	35,000	\$ 35,000
24		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>44,571,039</b>	<b>\$ 48,684,291</b>
25	13	<b>Criminal Court - Parish of Orleans</b>			
26		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans has exclusive jurisdiction</i>			
27		<i>of the trial and punishment of all crimes, misdemeanors, and offenses committed within the parish of</i>			
28		<i>Orleans, if the jurisdiction is not vested by law in some other court. The court, through its magistrate and</i>			
29		<i>with assistance from its commissioners, has the power of committing magistrates in all felony charges and</i>			
30		<i>the power to hold preliminary examinations, with authority to bail or discharge, or to hold for trial, in all</i>			
31		<i>cases before the court. The court has appellate jurisdiction of all cases tried before the Municipal and</i>			
32		<i>Traffic Court of New Orleans and has general supervisory jurisdiction over these courts.</i>			
33	A.	Salaries of thirteen (13) District			
34		Judges of Criminal Court, Orleans			
35		Parish as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$	2,110,850	\$ 2,286,428
36	B.	Office expenses of Judges of			
37		Criminal Court, Orleans Parish as			
38		Provided by R.S. 13:698	\$	74,750	\$ 74,750
39	C.	State's share of group insurance			
40		for personnel of Criminal Court			
41		as provided by R.S. 42:851	\$	754,735	\$ 809,410
42	D.	Salaries of thirteen (13) minute			
43		clerks as provided by R.S.			
44		13:1373.1	\$	294,775	\$ 284,090
45	E.	Salaries of twenty-six (26) court			
46		reporters as provided by R.S.			
47		13:1373.1	\$	460,845	\$ 447,504

1	F. Salaries of four (4) commissioners			
2	of Criminal Court, Orleans Parish,			
3	including related benefits as			
4	provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	567,412	\$ 597,692
5	G. Office and travel expenses of			
6	commissioners as provided by			
7	R.S. 13:1347	\$	10,600	\$ 10,600
8	H. Salaries of four (4) minute clerks,			
9	one for each commissioner			
10	as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	79,683	\$ 77,708
11	I. Salaries of four (4) court reporters,			
12	one for each commissioner			
13	as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	58,103	\$ 57,057
14	J. Salaries of Judicial Administrator,			
15	and assistants, including			
16	related benefits	\$	1,052,496	\$ 1,220,656
17	K. Salaries of thirteen (13) law clerks	\$	785,166	\$ 773,076
18	L. Salaries of four (4) secretaries	\$	227,400	\$ 224,948
19	M. Sanity Commissions	\$	58,855	\$ 60,179
20	N. Board of Jury Commissioners	\$	443,769	\$ 463,679
21	SUBTOTAL	\$	<u>6,979,439</u>	\$ <u>7,387,777</u>
22	14 Juvenile and Family Court Judges			
23	A. Salaries of thirteen (13) Juvenile			
24	Court Judges as provided by			
25	R.S. 13:691	\$	2,110,850	\$ 2,110,549
26	B. Salaries of four (4) Family Court			
27	Judges as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$	649,492	\$ 703,516
28	C. Office and travel expenses of Juvenile			
29	and Family Court Judges as			
30	provided by R.S. 13:698 and			
31	R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$	97,750	\$ 97,750
32	SUBTOTAL	\$	<u>2,858,092</u>	\$ <u>2,911,815</u>
33	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (District Courts):	\$	<u>54,408,570</u>	\$ <u>58,983,883</u>
34	MEANS OF FINANCE:			
35	State General Fund (Direct)	\$	<u>54,408,570</u>	\$ <u>58,983,883</u>
36	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING			
37	(District Courts):	\$	<u>54,408,570</u>	\$ <u>58,983,883</u>

1 **03-8173 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS**  
2 **REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

3 **Program Description:** *The category includes forty-seven city courts, one municipal and traffic court*  
4 *(New Orleans), and one parish court (Ascension Parish).*

	<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
5		
6 01 Salaries of sixty (60) City Court		
7 Judges as provided by R.S. 13:1875	\$ 3,145,602	\$ 3,407,236
8		
9 02 Salaries of seven (7) Municipal and		
10 Traffic and one (1) Parish Court		
11 Judge as provided by R.S. 13:2492		
and 2563.5, respectively	<u>\$ 455,923</u>	<u>\$ 493,846</u>
12		
13 TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER COURTS		
REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	<u>\$ 3,601,525</u>	<u>\$ 3,901,082</u>
14		
14 MEANS OF FINANCE:		
15 State General Fund (Direct)	<u>\$ 3,601,525</u>	<u>\$ 3,901,082</u>
16		
16 TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE (OTHER		
17 COURTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	<u>\$ 3,601,525</u>	<u>\$ 3,901,082</u>

18 **03-8174 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES NOT**  
19 **REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

	<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
20		
21 01 Orleans Parish Juvenile Protective		
22 Care Monitoring Program	\$ 634,328	\$ 671,737
23		
23 <b>Program Description:</b> <i>The program tracks and maintains child abuse and neglect cases in the Orleans</i> 24 <i>Parish Juvenile Court. It also provides assistance in support of the Families in Need of Services Program.</i>		
25		
26 02 Orleans Parish Juvenile Court		
Reporters	\$ 118,978	\$ 127,652
27		
28 03 For the expenses of the Judges'		
Assistance Program	<u>\$ 61,877</u>	<u>\$ 63,269</u>

29 **Program Description:** *The Judges' Assistance Program provides counseling and other assistance to*  
30 *judges with substance abuse problems.*

31		
32 TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER COURTS		
NOT REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	<u>\$ 815,183</u>	<u>\$ 862,658</u>
33		
33 MEANS OF FINANCE:		
34 State General Fund (Direct)	<u>\$ 815,183</u>	<u>\$ 862,658</u>
35		
36 TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE (OTHER		
37 COURTS NOT REQUIRED BY		
STATUTE)	<u>\$ 815,183</u>	<u>\$ 862,658</u>

38 Section 2.A. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or his duly authorized and  
39 appointed agent, shall warrant the state treasurer for the allocations herein provided, or for  
40 so much thereof as may be necessary. The aforesaid warrant shall be paid out of the State  
41 General Fund, and the state treasurer shall pay said warrant by preference over all other



1 warrants, except warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state and warrants  
2 for expenses of the legislature, which shall be concurrent with the warrant provided by this  
3 Act.

4 B. The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the judiciary  
5 in an approved bank that has been selected by the Supreme Court and is located in the state.

6 C. Any funds herein allocated to the judiciary, any portion of the funds previously  
7 appropriated to the judiciary, other revenue of the judiciary or its agencies, and interest  
8 earnings are hereby appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the judiciary;  
9 however, all funds remaining unexpended or unencumbered shall be returnable to the State  
10 General Fund on or before September 1, 2025.

11 D. For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, any surpluses occurring in the appropriations made in  
12 this Act may be transferred from one agency or line-item to another during the fiscal year  
13 in accordance with the rules of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the  
14 Supreme Court.

15 E. The adjustment to be made in the salaries of judicial employees and the number of  
16 authorized positions of the judiciary shall be as decided by the judicial agency affected,  
17 subject to the approval of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the  
18 Supreme Court.

19 F. The program descriptions contained in this Act are not part of the law and are not  
20 enacted into law by virtue of their inclusion in this Act.

21 G. The inclusion in this Act of staff salaries and benefits for lower court or other judicial  
22 branch agency employees shall not be deemed to create or impose any obligation upon the  
23 State of Louisiana Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the Judicial Budgetary  
24 Control Board, or the Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office relative to the  
25 administration of pay, retirement, or other benefits to any such employees. Accordingly, the  
26 State of Louisiana Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the Judicial Budgetary  
27 Control Board, and the Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office are not to be  
28 considered the "employer" or "employing agency" of lower court or other judicial agency  
29 employees whose staff salaries and other benefits are included in this Act.

1 Section 3. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
2 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be reduced by a total amount  
3 of Thirteen Million Six Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Five  
4 (\$13,666,285) Dollars, pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board  
5 or as approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

6 Section 4. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
7 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act, for the salaries of four (4)  
8 commissioners including related benefits, office and travel expenses of commissioners,  
9 salaries of four (4) minute clerks for the commissioners, and salaries of four (4) court  
10 reporters for the commissioners of the Criminal Court, Parish of Orleans, shall be reduced  
11 by a total amount of Seven Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Fifty-Seven (\$743,057) Dollars.

12 Section 5. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
13 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be increased by a total amount  
14 of Two Million Seven Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Five  
15 (\$2,771,745) Dollars to be distributed as follows: Seven Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand One  
16 Hundred Forty-Two (\$758,142) Dollars for the funding of additional positions with Families  
17 in Need of Services and the Louisiana Protective Order Registry; Seven Hundred Thirty-  
18 Four Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Three (\$734,553) Dollars for the expansion of Families  
19 in Need of Services; Six Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$650,000) Dollars for Louisiana Drug and  
20 Specialty Courts; and Six Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Fifty (\$629,050) Dollars for  
21 Court Appointed Special Advocates.

22 Section 6. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
23 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be increased by a total amount  
24 of Five Million Seven Hundred Thousand (\$5,700,000) Dollars for the operation of drug  
25 courts.

26 Section 7. No funds appropriated in this Act, including any fund balances of the  
27 judiciary, shall be used to fund salary increases for judges until the work point study by the  
28 National Center for State Courts is completed in accordance with House Resolution 3 of the  
29 2024 Regular Session.

1 Section 8. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2024; if vetoed by the governor  
2 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
3 2024, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

4 **COMPARATIVE STATEMENT**

5 In accordance with R.S. 39:51(D), the following represents a comparative statement for  
6 each Court and program. The existing operating budget for FY 2023-2024 is compared  
7 to the appropriations for FY 2024-2025 as contained in the original bill.

8	Existing Operating Budget	Appropriation Request
9 <u>Courts and Programs</u>	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>
10 <u>By Expenditure:</u>		
11 Supreme Court	\$ 87,705,242	\$ 94,167,608
12 Courts of Appeal	\$ 51,986,944	\$ 55,830,638
13 District Courts	\$ 54,408,570	\$ 58,983,883
14 Other Courts (statutory)	\$ 3,601,525	\$ 3,901,082
15 Other Programs (non-statutory)	\$ 815,183	\$ 862,658
16 Reduction	\$ 0	\$ (\$13,666,285)
17 Reduction (Orleans Crim. Dist)	\$ 0	\$ (743,057)
18 Addition	\$ 0	\$ 2,771,745
19 Addition	\$ 0	\$ 5,700,000
20 <b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$ 198,517,464</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 207,808,272</u></b>
21 <u>By Means of Finance:</u>		
22 Total General Fund (Direct)	\$ 178,883,689	\$ 192,510,095
23 Reduction General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ (13,666,285)
24 Reduction General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ (743,057)
25 Addition General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ 2,771,745
26 Addition General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ 5,700,000
27 Total Interagency Transfers	\$ 9,392,850	\$ 9,392,850
28 Total Statutory Dedications	<u>\$ 10,240,925</u>	<u>\$ 11,842,924</u>
29 <b>Total Funding</b>	<b><u>\$ 198,517,464</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 207,808,272</u></b>

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 781 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

McFarland

**Abstract:** Appropriates funds for FY 2024-2025 for expenses of the La. Judiciary, including the supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, Criminal Court of Orleans Parish, juvenile and family courts, and other courts.

Appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government with total funding of \$207,808,272 from the following sources: \$186,572,498 out of the State General Fund (Direct); \$9,392,850 out of Interagency Transfers; and \$11,842,924 from statutory dedications out of the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund and the Trial Court Case Management Fund.

Funding for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government is provided as follows:

	<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
Louisiana Supreme Court	\$ 87,705,242	\$ 94,167,608
Courts of Appeal	\$ 51,986,944	\$ 55,830,638
District Courts	\$ 44,571,039	\$ 48,684,291
Criminal Court, Parish of Orleans	\$ 6,979,439	\$ 7,387,777
Reduction (Crim Ct - Orleans)	\$ 0	\$ (743,057)
Juvenile and Family Courts	\$ 2,858,092	\$ 2,911,815
Other Courts (Required by Statute)	\$ 3,601,525	\$ 3,901,082
Other Programs	\$ 815,183	\$ 862,658
Reduction (SGF)	\$ 0	\$ (13,666,285)
Increase (SGF)	\$ 0	\$ 8,471,745
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b><u>\$ 198,517,464</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 207,808,272</u></b>

Effective July 1, 2024.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Increase the state general fund (direct) appropriation by \$8,471,745.
2. Make technical changes.