

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 442** HLS 24RS 774
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 7, 2024 10:41 AM **Author:** CARTER, ROBBY
Dept./Agy.: Judiciary and 21st Judicial District Court **Analyst:** Daniel Druilhet
Subject: Additional Judgeship for the 21st Judicial District Court

JUDGES RE SEE FISC NOTE EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Creates an additional judgeship for the 21st Judicial District Court

Current law provides that the 21st Judicial District Court shall have nine judges. Proposed law provides that the 21st Judicial District consists of two election sections, one and two, and provides the composition of both election sections; provides that nine judges shall be elected from election section one and that the additional judge shall be elected from election section two and shall have jurisdiction throughout the district; provides that the individual to be elected to the additional judgeship shall be elected by Article V, Section 22 of the Constitution to a term beginning the first January following the effective date for elections for judgeships in the 21st Judicial District Court (six-year term at the congressional election held in 2014 and every sixth year thereafter); provides that all successors to the judgeship created by the proposed law shall be elected at the same time and serve the same term as provided by law for other judges of the court; provides that the additional judgeship shall become effective if and when a work point study by the National Center for State Courts is completed in accordance with HCR 39 of the 2024 RS and the work point study concludes the additional district court judgeship is necessary.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
Annual Total	\$0					\$0

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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

Proposed law may result in an increase of \$231,442 (\$221,442 in annual expenses and \$10,000 in one-time expenses) in FY FY 26 and will be annualized in future fiscal years (approximately \$442,884 annually). These expenses are associated with adding one judge within the 21st Judicial District Court, Section Two (Tangipahoa and St. Helena). The new judgeship becomes effective contingent on if and when a work point study by the National Center for State Courts is completed in accordance with HCR 39 of the 2024 RS and concludes that an additional district court judgeship is necessary. Also, HCR 39 requires submission of the work point study by the Judicial Structure Task Force by 2/01/25. The LFO presumes that, if the work point study concludes that an additional district court judgeship is necessary in the 21st Judicial District Court, the creation of the judgeship contemplated by the proposed law will begin on 1/01/26.

The projected budget for the new judgeship is as follows:

	FY 26	FY 27 through 29
Judge Salary	\$81,194	\$162,388
Judge Supplemental Compensation	\$6,300	\$12,600
Court Reporter Salary (1)	\$25,000	\$50,000
Legal Secretary Salary (1)	\$25,000	\$50,000
Related Benefits	\$72,023	\$144,046
Travel	\$4,075	\$8,150
Vehicle Lease	\$3,600	\$7,200
Office Supplies	\$2,500	\$5,000
Insurance	\$1,750	\$3,500
Furniture (One-Time Expense in FY 26)	\$10,000	\$0
Total	\$231,442	\$442,884

*FY 26 represents 6 months of funding. The amount indicated in FY 27 is applicable to subsequent fiscal years.

Note: The expenses will be funded with 57% SGF, 4% Statutory Dedications (Judges Supplemental Compensation Fund), and 39% Local Funds.

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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}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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Secretary of State

The proposed law will result in an increase of \$7,700 in Local Funds expenditures to local governing authorities associated with adding an item onto a ballot for an election for the 21st Judicial District Court. During a gubernatorial, Congressional, presidential, or special election that includes candidacy for state offices on a given ballot, local governing authorities are responsible for 10% of the costs associated with balloting. The Secretary of State advises that the \$7,700 is an estimate, and that actual costs cannot be determined until the election is held and all costs are known.

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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