

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 775 (HB 781)

2024 Regular Session

McFarland

New law appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government, including the supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, juvenile and family courts, and other courts, with total funding of \$208,551,329 from the following sources: \$187,315,555 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.

New law provides that if the La. Supreme Court and the La. Judicial Budgetary Control Board each determine that the judiciary has sufficient funding from its approved bank account, as reflected in its balance as of June 30, 2024, to fund a one-time stipend, then the justices of the supreme court shall receive an additional one-time payment of \$15,280; the judges of the courts of appeal shall receive an additional one-time payment of \$17,680; the judges of the district courts shall receive an additional one-time payment of \$14,691; and the judges of the city courts and parish courts shall receive an additional one-time payment of 8.45% of their current base salary. New law further provides that the one-time stipend shall be funded solely by the approved bank account of the judiciary based on its balance as of June 30, 2024.

New law provides that the one-time stipend shall not be funded by a specific appropriation of the Louisiana Legislature, and as such shall not be considered compensation pursuant to existing Constitution (Art. 5, Sec. 21).

New law provides that any salary increase pursuant to existing law (R.S. 13:5636) that occurs by operation of law shall be considered a salary increase for purposes of existing Constitution (Art. 5, Sec. 31).

	<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
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
Total Funding	<u>\$ 198,517,464</u>	<u>\$ 208,551,329</u>

VETO MESSAGE:

"Please allow this letter to inform you that I have signed House Bill No. 781 of the 2024 Regular Session. However, I have exercised my line-item veto authority granted to me to veto 1 item as follows:

Veto No. 1: Delete lines 25-29, Section C., on page 10 of 11

This Section relates to a required work point study of the appellate and district courts in Louisiana. However, the study at issue is not scheduled to be completed until February 1, 2025, which is more than halfway through the fiscal year. Additionally, the Supreme Court establishes its own work study and caseload evaluation pursuant to the authority granted to it in La. Const. Art. V. On the recommendation of the judiciary commission, the Supreme Court has the authority to censure, suspend, remove from office, and even withhold salary of a variety of reason, including willful and persistent failure to perform his duty. La. Const. Art. V, §25.

Enclosed is a copy of the signed version of House Bill No. 781. I have sent the original to the Secretary of State."

Effective July 1, 2024.