



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 597** HLS 26RS 401  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 11, 2026	5:51 PM	<b>Author:</b> MCMAKIN
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Judiciary		
<b>Subject:</b> Annual Increase in Compensation for Certain Judges		<b>Analyst:</b> Daniel Druilhet

JUDGES EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to judicial compensation

Current law provides that the Judicial Compensation Commission is charged with the duty of studying judges' salaries and making recommendations to the legislature; requires the commission to submit recommendations concerning judges' salaries to the legislature 60 days prior to the commencement of any regular legislative session in an even-numbered year and permits a report to be submitted every two years thereafter at any regular legislative session in an even-numbered year; authorizes the legislature to adopt by concurrent resolution the same recommendations contained in the most recent report of the commission at a regular session convened in an odd-numbered year or at any extraordinary session if recommendations are included within the object of that session. Proposed law removes current law relative to the determination of judicial salaries and provides that the salaries of judges shall be determined by the Department of the Treasury each year after 2/1 by determining the average of a five year rolling index of the consumer price index; provides that the increase shall not exceed the five-year rolling average for a percentage of increase in average annual pay for full-time classified state employees; provides that salary increases will only occur if approved by the Supreme Court and the Judicial Budgetary Control Board and that salary increases will be suspended if sufficient funds are not available to fund the salary increase; effective 7/1/28.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>				<b>\$0</b>

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will result in an increase in SGF expenditures in the Louisiana Supreme Court in FY 29 for increases in salaries of justices of the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, district courts, parish courts, city courts, and judicial commissioners. The projected fiscal impact in FY 28 through FY 30 is unknown, as we are unable to project the CPI in each future fiscal year. Below is a sample calculation of judicial salaries (in a prior iteration of HB 597) using the average of a five year rolling index of the Consumer Price Index from January 2021 to January 2026, which is approximately 4.47%.

	Base Salary	Supplement	# of Judges	FY 26 Total Salaries	FY 27 Increase (4.47%)
<b>Supreme Court</b>					
Chief Justice	\$191,489	\$13,800	1	\$ 205,289	\$ 9,176
Associate Justices	\$181,827	\$13,800	6	\$ 1,173,762	\$ 52,467
<b>Courts of Appeal</b>					
Chief Judge	\$178,448	\$13,800	5	\$ 961,240	\$ 42,967
Judges	\$169,408	\$13,800	48	\$ 8,793,984	\$ 393,091
<b>District Court</b>					
Magistrate	\$146,149	\$13,800	1	\$ 159,949	\$ 7,150
Judges	\$162,388	\$13,800	236	\$41,580,368	\$1,858,642
City Courts	\$ 51,447	\$ 4,375	60	\$ 3,349,320	\$ 149,715
Shreveport City Court	\$ 66,196	\$ 5,630	4	\$ 287,304	\$ 12,842
Monroe City Court	\$ 51,481	\$ 4,375	3	\$ 167,568	\$ 7,490
Ascension Parish Court	\$ 95,840	\$ 8,142	1	\$ 103,982	\$ 4,648
<b>Commissioners</b>					
15th and 19th JDC	\$146,150	\$12,420	3	\$ 475,710	\$ 21,264
Orleans Criminal Court	\$ 89,314	\$ 7,590	4	\$ 387,616	\$ 17,326
			372	\$57,646,092	\$2,576,778


Sample CPI Increase (4.47%)	\$2,576,778
Related Benefits (36.8%)	\$ 948,254
<b>Total Sample Increase</b>	<b>\$3,525,032</b>

**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**