



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 607** HLS 13RS 321
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Date: May 29, 2013 4:19 PM | Author: MORENO |
| Dept./Agy.: Orleans Parish Juvenile Court | Analyst: Staci Cefalu |
| Subject: Elimination of judgeships | |

COURTS/JUVENILE RE DECREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides for the elimination of two judgeships from the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

Purpose of Bill: This measure abolishes the following two judgeships in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court: 1 - Section "D" shall be abolished effective December 31, 2014; 2 - the first judgeship vacated by death, resignation, retirement, or removal during the term of office on or after December 31, 2014 shall be abolished the following day. This measure also requires that the funding from the city of New Orleans from abolished judgeships to be allocated for juvenile services within the city.

| EXPENDITURES | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | \$0 | (\$102,480) | (\$204,960) | (\$204,960) | (\$204,960) | (\$717,360) |
| 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 | <u>\$0</u> | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | SEE BELOW | \$0 |
| Annual Total | \$0 | | | | | \$0 |

| REVENUES | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 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 | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | \$0 |
| Annual Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

State general fund expenditures are anticipated to decrease by \$102,480 in Fiscal Year 2014-15 and by \$204,960 in subsequent fiscal years and local fund expenditures are anticipated to remain the same.

The first judgeship will be abolished 12/31/14 and the second judgeship will be abolished after 12/31/14; therefore there is no fiscal impact for FY 2013-14 or half of FY 2014-15.

According to an official with the Supreme Court Judicial Administrators Office, the current yearly cost for a juvenile court judge is \$204,960 including salary of \$137,743, related benefits (Medicare, LASERS, group insurance) of \$61,467 and office and travel expenses of \$5,750. Because it is unknown when the second judgeship will be abolished, the estimated decrease in state general fund expenditures for all fiscal years only includes the Section "D" judgeship. The expenditure decrease would be \$409,920 beginning the year the second judgeship is abolished. The estimates do not consider possible future increases in salaries, related benefits, or expenses.

According to an official with the City of New Orleans, the loss of two judgeships would allow for a proportional reduction in staffing at the Juvenile Court by one third and a reduction in court expenditures of approximately \$827,000 annually. The funds will be reappropriated within the City's budget to be used for juvenile services after the judgeships are abolished.

According to an official with the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, although there may be a decrease in court expenditures, they are unsure of the amount at this time.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

According to officials with the Supreme Court, the City of New Orleans, and the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, no fiscal impact on revenues is anticipated as a result of this measure.

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| <u>Senate</u> | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H} | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S} | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H} | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} | |

Joy Irwin
 Director of Advisory Services