

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 217** SLS 14RS 648
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 8, 2014	12:55 PM	Author: MURRAY
Dept./Agy.: Judiciary		Analyst: Matthew LaBruyere
Subject: Judicial Vacancies		

JUDGES OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to vacancy in the office of a judge. (8/1/14)

Proposed law provides that a vacancy in the office of a judge shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 22(B) of the Louisiana Constitution.

A companion bill (SB 216) provides for a constitutional amendment to be placed on the ballot at the statewide election held on November 4, 2014.

Effective August 1, 2014.

EXPENDITURES	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	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

The proposed legislation allows the LA Supreme Court, when a vacancy arises, the option to fill the vacancy, reallocate the judgeship to another district, or abolish the judgeship. Whatever the court decides will determine if this bill could result in an overall net decrease or no change in expenditures.

For example, the proposed legislation may result in an increase in local fund expenditures if a judgeship is reallocated to another court of jurisdiction. The potential increase in expenditures would include the operating expenses of the judgeship and any staff the judgeship may need. Inversely, local fund expenditures in the original district of the judgeship would decrease as a result of the judgeship no longer located in the district.

To the extent the LA Supreme Court recommends abolishment and the legislature does abolish the judgeship, a decrease in state general fund expenditures will result. For each judgeship that is abolished, SGF expenditures would reduced by \$224,133. This amount includes the district court judge's salary of \$146,262 and related benefits of \$77,871.

Local fund expenditures will also decrease if a vacant judgeship is abolished. The local fund savings will depend on the judicial district in which the abolished judgeship is located. The size of the staff for each judge varies from district to district. Potentially each division of a court may have at least one of the following: secretary, law clerk, court reporter, docket clerk, minute clerk, bailiff, and receptionist. To the extent a judgeship is abolished, local expenditures will be decreased as a result of not paying for the expenses of the positions that were associated with the judgeship and operating costs of the judgeship.

It should be noted that the cost associated with staff in judicial districts vary and the exact potential local fund expenditures is unknown.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	House	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	<i>Evan Brasseaux</i> Evan Brasseaux Staff Director
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {H & 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}		