



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: SB 445 SLS 14RS 444
Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 24, 2014 9:20 AM Author: CROWE
Dept./Agy.: Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Analyst: Steven Kraemer
Subject: Elimination of judgeships

JUDGES EG DECREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides for the elimination of two judges from the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. (See Act)

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.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 5-YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

Table with 7 columns: REVENUES, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 5-YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

State general fund expenditures are anticipated to decrease over calendar years 2015 - 2019 by \$224,000 in 2015; \$229,000 in 2016; by \$233,000 in 2017; and by \$238,000 in subsequent calendar years. Local fund expenditures are anticipated to remain the same. These calculations above assume that one judgeship will be eliminated over the next five calendar years.

The first judgeship will be abolished 12/31/14 and the second judgeship may be abolished on or after 12/31/14. It is difficult to predict when the second judgeship will be eliminated.

According to an official with the Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office, the yearly cost for a juvenile court judge will be approximately \$224,000 [salary of \$146,000; benefits (Medicare, LASERS, group insurance) of \$72,000; office and travel expenses of \$6,000]. Because it is unknown when the second judgeship will be abolished, the estimated decrease in state general fund expenditures only includes the Section "D" judgeship. The expenditure decrease would double beginning in the year the second judgeship is abolished. The estimates include a 2.1% salary increase for 2015 through 2018.

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, no impact on court expenditures is anticipated.

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.

Senate Dual Referral Rules House
13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}
13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}
6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {H & S}
6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}
Joy Irwin
Director of Advisory Services