



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 425** HLS 21RS 900
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 20, 2021	4:02 PM	Author: CARTER, WILFORD
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court		
Subject: Increase number of associate justices		Analyst: Rebecca Robinson

JUDGES/SUPREME COURT OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2
 (Constitutional Amendment) Increases the number of associate supreme court justices and increases the required number of justices concurring in order to render judgment
 Proposed constitutional amendment increases the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six associate justices to eight (plus the Chief Justice), five of whom must concur to render judgment. Proposes that the measure be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on October 9, 2021.

EXPENDITURES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	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>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There may be an increase in SGF expenditures for the LA Secretary of State of approximately \$2 M if the open/municipal primary election to be held on October 9, 2021, is converted to a statewide election to permit the inclusion of constitutional amendments on the ballot. Proposed law does not appear to authorize the conversion of the October 9, 2021, election to a statewide ballot (see additional discussion on page 2).

There will be an increase in SGF expenditures for the Louisiana Supreme Court (LSC) if this constitutional amendment is approved by the voters in October 2021. To the extent the voters approve the measure, the LSC will increase its associate justices from six to eight. The LSC reports the addition of two associate justices will require six additional law clerks and two administrative assistants, and renovations to existing facilities to accommodate additional office space. LSC estimates there will be an increase in one-time expenditures of \$500,000 for renovations of office space at the Supreme Court and \$74,160 for acquisition of computers, office furniture, and the phone system. LSC estimates recurring annual expenditures of approximately \$1.7 M.

Recurring Annual Expenditures:

- \$607,017 Salaries and related benefits for 2 associate justices
- \$786,990 Salaries and related benefits for 6 law clerks
- \$172,346 Salaries and related benefits for 2 administrative assistants
- \$2,020 Office supplies
- \$45,904 Office rent/expenses at satellite offices
- \$71,400 Travel expenses
- \$9,792 Copy/fax machine lease
- \$1,695,469

Note: The bill is silent as to effective date. The LFO assumes that if this measure is approved by the voters in October 2021, then a half year of the \$1.7 M recurring annual expenditures could be realized in FY 22 (approximately \$850,000) in addition to the itemized one-time expenditures of \$574,160. Any delay in seating the two new associate justices would impact expenditures accordingly.

SEE EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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}

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 Staff Director



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

The Secretary of State may incur minimal ballot printing costs associated with this measure. As a regular practice, the Secretary of State typically budgets for up to 10 constitutional amendments and statewide propositions for the fall statewide elections. To the extent the ballot includes more than 10 constitutional amendments and statewide propositions, the Secretary of State may require additional SGF resources for ballot printing costs associated with a statewide election.

NOTE: No statewide election is currently scheduled for October 9, 2021. While this proposed measure does not authorize a statewide election on this date, separate legislation filed in the 2021 Regular Session will if enacted. The Secretary of State estimates an increase of SGF expenditures by \$2 M in FY 22 to hold a special statewide election on Saturday, October 9, 2021. In the Governor’s Executive Budget (HB 1 Original), the Secretary of State (SOS) has \$13.9 M SGF budgeted for four non-statewide elections in FY 22. The scheduled October 9, 2021, election is an open/municipal primary election that is anticipated to cost \$4,045,000. Statewide elections cost approximately \$6 M. To change the October 9, 2021, election into a statewide election with constitutional amendments will require an additional \$2 M appropriation to SOS.

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