



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 163** SLS 21RS 227
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 21, 2021	10:34 AM	Author: MCMATH
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court		
Subject: Increase number of associate justices		Analyst: Rebecca Robinson

COURTS EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2

Constitutional Amendment to increase the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six to eight associate justices. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

Proposed constitutional amendment increases the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six associate justices to eight, five of whom must concur to render judgment. Mandates the legislature to set forth the specific method of transitioning to nine single member districts. If the amendment is approved by the voters, it shall become **effective on January 1, 2025.**

EXPENDITURES	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>5 -YEAR TOTAL</u>
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	\$0	\$0	\$1,495,895	\$1,695,469	\$3,191,364
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	\$1,495,895	\$1,695,469	\$3,191,364

REVENUES	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>5 -YEAR TOTAL</u>
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, who will begin their terms on January 1, 2025. 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 expenditures beginning in FY 25 in the amount of approximately \$1.5 M; with the expenditures for FY 26 and beyond at approximately \$1.7 M.

Expenditures for FY 25:

- \$316,595 1/2 year salaries and related benefits for 2 associate justices
- \$432,486 1/2 year salaries for 6 law clerks
- \$101,152 1/2 year salaries for 2 administrative assistants
- \$1,000 1/2 year office supplies
- \$25,902 1/2 year office rent/expenses for satellite offices
- \$35,000 1/2 year travel expenses
- \$9,600 1/2 years expense for copy/fax machine lease
- \$500,000 *One-time cost for renovations at LSC*
- \$74,160 *One-time expenses for computers, office furniture, and phone system*
- \$1,495,895**

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.

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| <p><u>Senate</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}</p> | <p><u>Dual Referral Rules</u></p> | <p><u>House</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}</p> |
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Alan M. Boxberger
 Staff Director



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

- Expenditures for FY 26 and beyond (full year expenses):
\$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

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.

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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