



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 163** SLS 21RS 227
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ HSE COMM AMD**
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 4, 2021	3:32 PM	Author: MCMATH
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court		
Subject: Increase number of associate justices		Analyst: Rebecca Robinson

COURTS RE1 INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

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. Provides that proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the electors at a statewide election to be held on November 8, 2022. If the amendment is approved by the voters, it shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

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

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 will be an increase in SGF expenditures for the Louisiana Supreme Court (LSC) if this constitutional amendment is approved by the voters in November 2022. 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
<u>\$74,160</u>	One-time expenses for computers, office furniture, and phone system
\$1,495,895	

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
<u>\$9,792</u>	Copy/fax machine lease
\$1,695,469	

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}

Alan M. Boxberger
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 Staff Director