



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 28** HLS 24RS 160
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 5, 2024 11:16 AM	Author: MELERINE
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court	
Subject: Increases the number of Supreme Court Justices	Analyst: Kimberly Fruge

JUDGES/SUPREME COURT OR +\$1,145,641 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 (Constitutional Amendment) Increases the number of associate supreme court justices

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. Proposed constitutional amendment changes the number of districts from a minimum of six to nine. Proposed constitutional amendment provides a proposition to be placed on the ballot for the statewide election held on November 5, 2024, for the voters to approve.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$1,145,641	\$1,943,188	\$1,760,918	\$1,831,354	\$1,904,607	\$8,585,708
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$1,145,641	\$1,943,188	\$1,760,918	\$1,831,354	\$1,904,607	\$8,585,708
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed constitutional amendment will result in a significant increase for the Louisiana Supreme Court if this constitutional amendment is approved by the voters in November 2024. If approved, the Supreme Court will increase its associate justices from six to eight. The addition of two justices will require six additional law clerks and two administrative assistants. In addition, the Supreme Court will incur one-time costs for renovations of the office space to accommodate the new staff as well as acquisition costs for computers, office furniture, and other miscellaneous equipment as well as supplies. The table below provides a breakdown of the annual costs by expenditure category with additional information on page 2.

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29
Personnel Services	\$ 751,452	\$ 1,563,940	\$ 1,626,498	\$ 1,691,558	\$ 1,759,220
Operating Expenses	\$ 301,804	\$ 357,752	\$ 112,063	\$ 116,545	\$ 121,206
Equipment	\$ 92,385	\$ 21,496	\$ 22,357	\$ 23,251	\$ 24,181
Total	\$ 1,145,641	\$ 1,943,188	\$ 1,760,918	\$ 1,831,354	\$ 1,904,607

The Secretary of State may incur minimal ballot processing 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 the November 5, 2024, statewide election. Any expenditure impact would be realized in FY 25.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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}


Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED:

Personal Services:

FY 25 (Half Year)

	Salary	Related Benefits	Total Costs per person	# of positions	Total Costs
Justice	\$ 101,102	\$ 48,335	\$ 149,437	2	\$ 298,874
Law Clerk	\$ 37,500	\$ 23,328	\$ 60,828	6	\$ 364,968
Administrative Assistant	\$ 25,000	\$ 18,805	\$ 43,805	2	\$ 87,610
Total Personal					\$751,452

FY 26 (Full Year)

	Salary	Related Benefits	Total Costs per person	# of positions	Total Costs
Justice	\$ 210,292	\$ 103,760	\$ 314,052	2	\$ 628,104
Law Clerk	\$ 78,000	\$ 47,922	\$ 125,922	6	\$ 755,532
Administrative Assistant	\$ 52,000	\$ 38,152	\$ 90,152	2	\$ 180,304
Total Personal					\$1,563,940

*In the out-years, the Supreme Court assumes an increase of 4% for all salary and related benefits for all positions.

Operating Expenses:

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29
Renovations	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Office Supplies/Membership Dues	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,160	\$ 4,326	\$ 4,499	\$ 4,679
Rent and Utilities	\$ 21,600	\$ 44,928	\$ 46,729	\$ 48,595	\$ 50,538
Professional Liability Insurance	\$ 3,204	\$ 6,664	\$ 6,931	\$ 7,208	\$ 7,496
Travel	\$ 25,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 54,080	\$ 56,243	\$ 58,493
Total	\$ 301,804	\$ 357,752	\$ 112,063	\$ 116,545	\$ 121,206

*The Supreme Court assumes an increase of 4% in costs annually due to inflation.

Equipment:

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29
Computer Hardware and Software	\$ 29,005	\$ 10,306	\$ 10,719	\$ 11,147	\$ 11,593
Furniture	\$ 58,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Copier/Scanner/Fax Machine	\$ 4,800	\$ 9,984	\$ 10,383	\$ 10,799	\$ 11,231
Desk Phone	\$ 580	\$ 1,206	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,305	\$ 1,357
Total	\$ 92,385	\$ 21,496	\$ 22,357	\$ 23,251	\$ 24,181

*The Supreme Court assumes an increase of 4% in costs annually due to inflation.

Senate
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
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House
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