

# ACT No. 775

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 781

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

1 AN ACT

2 To appropriate funds to defray the expenses of the Louisiana Judiciary, including the  
3 Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, Criminal District Court of Orleans  
4 Parish, and other courts; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. A. The sum of Two Hundred Thirteen Million Seven Hundred Forty-Five  
8 Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Nine (\$213,745,869) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be  
9 necessary, is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of the judiciary, including the  
10 Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, the District Courts, the Criminal District Court of Orleans  
11 Parish, and of the other courts.

12 B. The total amount herein appropriated is hereby allocated to provide as follows:

13 **03-8170 SUPREME COURT**

14 **Program Description:** *The Supreme Court has general supervisory jurisdiction over all lower courts. It may establish procedural and administrative rules not in conflict with law and may assign a sitting or retired judge to any court. The Supreme Court has sole authority to provide by rule for appointments of attorneys as temporary or ad hoc judges. It considers applications for writs to review individual cases, and has criminal and other appellate jurisdiction. The Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction of disciplinary proceedings against lawyers, recommendations of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana for the discipline of judges, and fact questions affecting its appellate jurisdiction. It has inherent authority to regulate the legal profession and to promulgate and update the Code of Judicial Conduct. The court also provides judicial training through the Judicial College and works to improve the administration of justice.*

		<u>FY 24 EOB</u>	<u>FY 25 REC</u>
24	01		
25			
26	Salaries of one (1) Chief Justice and		
27	six (6) Associate Justices of the		
28	Supreme Court, as provided by		
	R.S. 13:102	\$ 1,282,315	\$ 1,381,774
29	02		
30	Salaries and other expenses of the		
31	Supreme Court Proper and salary of		
	the Crier of the Supreme Court	\$ 11,941,695	\$ 12,813,962

1           03     Expenses of Judicial Administrator's  
 2                   Office and of the Judiciary  
 3                   Commission provided for in Article V,  
 4                   Section 25 of the Constitution of  
 5                   Louisiana and under the provisions of  
 6                   R.S. 13:32 et seq.

7           A. Expenses of Judicial  
 8                   Administrator's Office                                 \$     5,799,573     \$     5,999,379

9           **Program Description:** *The Judicial Administrator's Office assists the Supreme Court in the*  
 10 *administration of the state court system. It staffs the Judicial Council and the Judiciary Commission of*  
 11 *Louisiana. Through the Judicial Council, it performs studies and makes recommendations for the creation*  
 12 *of new judgeships and for improving the administration of justice. The Judicial Administrator's Office*  
 13 *provides payroll and other fiscal services to the Judiciary, including the administration of a judicial*  
 14 *retirement system; support for the Supreme Court and Appellate Court human resource system; and*  
 15 *support for judicial branch reporting obligations. The Judicial Administrator's Office also manages the*  
 16 *ad hoc judgeship system, monitors cases under advisement, provides support for initiatives to ensure*  
 17 *access to the courts for limited English proficiency individuals; provides outreach services to state and*  
 18 *local courts, applies for and administers grants to improve judicial administration; and staffs the*  
 19 *Committee on Judicial Ethics. The Judicial Administrator's office administers several programs, including*  
 20 *the Supreme Court Drug Court / Specialty Court Office, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, and*  
 21 *CASA and FINS through the Division of Children and Families. The Judicial Administrator's office also*  
 22 *provides staff support for the Louisiana Judicial College, and performs numerous legal services for the*  
 23 *Supreme Court and the Judiciary.*

24           B. Expenses of Judiciary Commission                                 \$     2,210,912     \$     2,351,156

25           **Program Description:** *The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana is a constitutional body established under*  
 26 *Article V, Section 25 of the Constitution of 1974 to accept, screen, investigate, and prosecute complaints*  
 27 *of judicial misconduct. As part of its authority, it may recommend to the Supreme Court the censure,*  
 28 *suspension, removal from office, or involuntary retirement of any judge for ethical misconduct.*

29           C. Court Reporters; Statistical  
 30                   Reporting Systems                                 \$     362,299     \$     380,536

31           D. Dues to National Center for  
 32                   State Courts                                 \$     186,000     \$     186,000

33           04     Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary  
 34                   Board, as per Louisiana Supreme  
 35                   Court Rule XIX                                 \$     3,000     \$     3,000

36           05     Compensation and expenses of retired  
 37                   judges assigned under Article V,  
 38                   Section 5(A) of the Constitution of  
 39                   Louisiana, be it more or less  
 40                   estimated at                                 \$     873,866     \$     917,559

41           06     Law Library of Louisiana for salaries,  
 42                   services, supplies, maintenance, repairs,  
 43                   and equipment                                 \$     1,868,758     \$     2,010,898

44           **Program Description:** *The Law Library of Louisiana serves the legal information needs of the state*  
 45 *judiciary, and is open to members of the bar and public.*

46           07     Salaries and expenses of transferred  
 47                   judges assigned under Article V,  
 48                   Section 5(A) of the Constitution,  
 49                   be it more or less estimated as                                 \$     75,000     \$     78,750

50           08     Retirement pay for services rendered by  
 51                   justices and judges of all courts, as  
 52                   provided by R.S. 11:1358                                 \$     527,000     \$     548,080

1	09	Pensions for widows of justices and			
2		judges of all courts, as provided by			
3		R.S. 11:1371 and R.S. 11:1381, be it			
4		more or less estimated at	\$	715,000	\$ 730,494
5	10	Judicial College	\$	266,227	\$ 283,830
6		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Judicial College was established by order of the Supreme Court in 1976 to</i>			
7		<i>provide continuing legal education to Louisiana judges.</i>			
8	11	State contribution to judicial			
9		retirement provided for in Article V,			
10		Section 23 of the Constitution and			
11		R.S. 11:551 et seq., be it more or			
12		less estimated at	\$	22,166,383	\$ 22,170,013
13	12	Civil commitment matters as			
14		required by R.S. 28:54	\$	345,335	\$ 405,088
15	13	Paul M. Hebert Law Center for			
16		expenses of storage of appellate			
17		court records	\$	60,000	\$ 60,000
18	14	Funding for statewide operations of the			
19		Louisiana Protective Order Registry			
20		(R.S. 46:2136.2) under the Case			
21		Management Information System	\$	1,243,914	\$ 1,593,127
22	15	Information Technology	\$	2,053,167	\$ 2,495,770
23	16	Operational expenses of			
24		the Families in Need of Services			
25		Program (FINS)	\$	2,358,111	\$ 3,219,018
26		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The mission of the FINS Assistance Program is to assist local FINS processes by</i>			
27		<i>developing and implementing a needs-based allocation formula; developing, implementing, and mandating</i>			
28		<i>the use of a uniform data system for tracking, managing, and reporting FINS informal cases; developing</i>			
29		<i>and mandating the use of programmatic standards; developing, implementing, and reporting performance</i>			
30		<i>indicators and measures; requiring and monitoring periodic fiscal reports and financial accountability;</i>			
31		<i>and, generally supervising and assisting local FINS processes in other ways.</i>			
32					
33	17	Louisiana Drug and Specialty Courts	\$	15,775,458	\$ 16,643,558
34		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>Louisiana Drug and Specialty Courts, such as Drug/DWI Treatment Courts,</i>			
35		<i>authorized in 1977 by R.S. 13:5301-5304; Reentry Courts, authorized in 2010 by R.S. 13:5401; Mental</i>			
36		<i>Health Courts, authorized in 2013 by R.S. 13:5353 - 5358; Swift and Certain Program, authorized by R.S.</i>			
37		<i>13:5371; and Veterans Treatment Courts, authorized in 2014 by R.S. 13:5361 - 5368, are proven and</i>			
38		<i>effective alternatives to traditional criminal justice interventions. These programs provide integrated</i>			
39		<i>treatment for substance use and mental health disorders, including the appropriate use of sanctions and</i>			
40		<i>incentives along with case management, to place participants in need of services into appropriate</i>			
41		<i>community-based and judicially supervised rehabilitation programs. Clients are regularly tested and</i>			
42		<i>monitored for compliance with educational, employment, and treatment requirements pursuant to current</i>			
43		<i>best practices and the proven national model.</i>			
44	18	Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$	7,350,304	\$ 8,052,692
45		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The purpose of the CASA Assistance Program is to promote timely placement of</i>			
46		<i>children in need of care in permanent, safe and stable homes, in accordance with the provisions of</i>			
47		<i>Children's Code articles 424-426. Services are provided through local CASA programs which recruit,</i>			
48		<i>screen, train and supervise community advocates. Upon appointment by the trial judge, qualified</i>			
49		<i>advocates serve children by providing independent factual information to the judge, advocating for the best</i>			
50		<i>interest of the children, monitoring cases to which they have been assigned, and advising and assisting the</i>			
51		<i>judge in the determination of the best interest of the children involved.</i>			

1           19     Judges' supplemental compensation  
 2                     R.S. 13:10.3, be it more or less  
 3                     estimated at                                     \$     6,223,724     \$     7,785,844

4           **Program Description:** *The Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund was established by the Legislature*  
 5           *in 1985 to fund salary supplements and salary-related expenses to judges and commissioners. The funding*  
 6           *source is a non-refundable filing fee assessed on civil filings as provided in R.S. 13:10.3.*

7           20     Case Management Information System,  
 8                     Article 887(F) of the Code of Criminal  
 9                     Procedure, be it more or less  
 10                    estimated at                                     \$     4,017,201     \$     4,057,080

11           **Program Description:** *The Case Management Information System (CMIS) was created by the Supreme*  
 12           *Court in 1993 to provide a statewide information system for tracking and managing criminal, civil,*  
 13           *juvenile, traffic, and appellate cases as well as protective orders. Data is received from courts statewide,*  
 14           *transferred to the CMIS repository, and made available to courts and executive branch agencies.*  
 15           *Additional information will also be available from the Department of Public Safety & Corrections. CMIS*  
 16           *is funded from a court cost assessed on all criminal and traffic convictions as provided under*  
 17           *C.Cr.P.887(F).*

18                    TOTAL EXPENDITURES:                                     \$     87,705,242     \$     94,167,608

19           MEANS OF FINANCE:  
 20           State General Fund (Direct)                                     \$     68,071,467     \$     72,931,834  
 21           State General Fund by:  
 22                 Interagency Transfers                                     \$     9,392,850     \$     9,392,850  
 23                 Statutory Dedications:  
 24                     Judges' Supplemental Compensation  
 25                     Fund                                     \$     6,223,724     \$     7,785,844  
 26                     Trial Court Case Management  
 27                     Information Fund                                     \$     4,017,201     \$     4,057,080  
 28                    TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING                                     \$     87,705,242     \$     94,167,608

29           **03-8171    COURTS OF APPEAL**

30           **Program Description:** *The five courts of appeal, domiciled in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lake Charles,*  
 31           *New Orleans, and Gretna, have supervisory jurisdiction over all cases arising within their respective*  
 32           *circuits, subject to the general supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Each court of appeal also*  
 33           *has appellate jurisdiction over all civil matters, all matters appealed from family and juvenile courts, and*  
 34           *all criminal cases triable by a jury which arise within its circuit, except for those cases appealable directly*  
 35           *to the Supreme Court or to the district courts.*

		<b><u>FY 24 EOB</u></b>	<b><u>FY 25 REC</u></b>
36			
37	01		
38			
39	Salaries of five (5) Chief Judges and forty-eight (48) Judges of the Courts of Appeal, R.S. 13:311	\$     9,022,841	\$     9,901,650
40	02		
41			
42	Salaries and expenses of operation and maintenance of the Court of Appeal, First Circuit	\$    11,279,856	\$    11,902,319
43	03		
44			
45	Salaries and expenses of operation and maintenance of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit	\$     6,378,931	\$     6,764,817
46	04		
47			
48	Salaries and expenses of operation and maintenance of the Court of Appeal, Third Circuit	\$     9,691,207	\$    10,310,148
49	05		
50			
51	Salaries and expenses of operation and maintenance of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit	\$     9,011,897	\$     9,694,031

1	06	Salaries and expenses of operation		
2		and maintenance of the Court of		
3		Appeal, Fifth Circuit	\$ 6,602,212	\$ 7,257,673
4		TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	<u>\$ 51,986,944</u>	<u>\$ 55,830,638</u>
5		MEANS OF FINANCE:		
6		State General Fund (Direct)	\$ 51,986,944	\$ 55,830,638
7		TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	<u>\$ 51,986,944</u>	<u>\$ 55,830,638</u>

8 **03-8172 DISTRICT COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS**  
 9 **REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

10 ***Program Description:** There are forty-one district courts in Louisiana that have general jurisdiction over*  
 11 *all matters within their territorial limits, except in those judicial districts (the 1st, the 19th, and the 24th*  
 12 *Judicial Districts) where family and juvenile courts have exclusive jurisdiction over certain types of cases*  
 13 *and except in Orleans Parish where there are separate courts exercising civil, criminal, and juvenile*  
 14 *jurisdictions. In certain cases, the forty-one general jurisdiction courts have concurrent jurisdiction with*  
 15 *justices of the peace and parish courts. The district courts generally have appellate jurisdiction of*  
 16 *criminal cases tried by city, parish, municipal, traffic, and mayors' courts, except in certain cases. The*  
 17 *district courts also have appellate jurisdiction over justices of the peace in parishes where no parish courts*  
 18 *exist. The Civil District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction of all civil cases in that parish. The*  
 19 *Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction over all criminal cases in that parish. It also*  
 20 *has general supervisory jurisdiction over the municipal and traffic court in Orleans Parish. The Family*  
 21 *Court of East Baton Rouge Parish has exclusive jurisdiction of many domestic cases in that parish. The*  
 22 *four juvenile courts located in Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans parishes have exclusive*  
 23 *jurisdiction of juvenile cases in their respective parishes.*

			<b><u>FY 24 EOB</u></b>	<b><u>FY 25 REC</u></b>
24				
25	01	Salaries of one hundred ninety-one		
26		(191) District Judges as provided		
27		by R.S. 13:691	\$ 31,159,398	\$ 33,751,199
28	02	Office and travel expenses of District		
29		Judges as provided by R.S. 13:698		
30		and R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$ 1,285,250	\$ 1,299,750
31	03	Salaries of fourteen (14) Judges of		
32		Civil District Court, Orleans Parish,		
33		as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$ 2,273,223	\$ 2,462,307
34	04	Expenses of Judges of Civil District		
35		Court, Parish of Orleans, for salaries		
36		of stenographers, clerks, law books,		
37		stationery, telephone, and like		
38		expenses as provided by R.S. 13:698	\$ 80,500	\$ 80,500
39	05	Salaries of two (2) Court Reporters		
40		of the Twentieth Judicial District Court,		
41		including retirement contributions, as		
42		provided by R.S. 13:966.1	\$ 114,514	\$ 114,098
43	06	Clerk of Civil District Court, Orleans		
44		Parish, as provided by R.S. 13:1212(A)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
45	07	State share of Group, Workers'		
46		Compensation, General Liability, and		
47		Property Insurance Premiums as		
48		provided by R.S. 42:851	\$ 8,161,271	\$ 9,307,095

1	08	Salaries of two (2) commissioners of			
2		the Nineteenth Judicial District and			
3		one (1) commissioner of the Fifteenth			
4		Judicial District as provided by			
5		R.S. 13:712 and R.S. 13:715,			
6		respectively	\$	650,843	\$ 689,813
7	09	Office expenses for the Judicial			
8		Expense Fund of the Nineteenth Judicial			
9		District Court as provided by			
10		R.S. 13:711-713	\$	447,975	\$ 567,875
11	10	Office expenses for the Judicial			
12		Expense Fund of the Fifteenth			
13		Judicial District Court as provided			
14		by R.S. 13:714-716	\$	303,754	\$ 317,343
15	11	Law Clerk, Twentieth Judicial District			
16		Court as provided by Act 747 of 1977	\$	49,311	\$ 49,311
17	12	For the expenses of the Judicial Expense			
18		Fund, Tenth Judicial District Court as			
19		provided by Act 57 of 2006	\$	35,000	\$ 35,000
20		SUBTOTAL	\$	<u>44,571,039</u>	\$ <u>48,684,291</u>
21	13	Criminal Court - Parish of Orleans			
22		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans has exclusive jurisdiction</i>			
23		<i>of the trial and punishment of all crimes, misdemeanors, and offenses committed within the parish of</i>			
24		<i>Orleans, if the jurisdiction is not vested by law in some other court. The court, through its magistrate and</i>			
25		<i>with assistance from its commissioners, has the power of committing magistrates in all felony charges and</i>			
26		<i>the power to hold preliminary examinations, with authority to bail or discharge, or to hold for trial, in all</i>			
27		<i>cases before the court. The court has appellate jurisdiction of all cases tried before the Municipal and</i>			
28		<i>Traffic Court of New Orleans and has general supervisory jurisdiction over these courts.</i>			
29	A.	Salaries of thirteen (13) District			
30		Judges of Criminal Court, Orleans			
31		Parish as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$	2,110,850	\$ 2,286,428
32	B.	Office expenses of Judges of			
33		Criminal Court, Orleans Parish as			
34		Provided by R.S. 13:698	\$	74,750	\$ 74,750
35	C.	State's share of group insurance			
36		for personnel of Criminal Court			
37		as provided by R.S. 42:851	\$	754,735	\$ 809,410
38	D.	Salaries of thirteen (13) minute			
39		clerks as provided by R.S.			
40		13:1373.1	\$	294,775	\$ 284,090
41	E.	Salaries of twenty-six (26) court			
42		reporters as provided by R.S.			
43		13:1373.1	\$	460,845	\$ 447,504
44	F.	Salaries of four (4) commissioners			
45		of Criminal Court, Orleans Parish,			
46		including related benefits as			
47		provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	567,412	\$ 597,692

1	G. Office and travel expenses of			
2	commissioners as provided by			
3	R.S. 13:1347	\$	10,600	\$ 10,600
4	H. Salaries of four (4) minute clerks,			
5	one for each commissioner			
6	as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	79,683	\$ 77,708
7	I. Salaries of four (4) court reporters,			
8	one for each commissioner			
9	as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	58,103	\$ 57,057
10	J. Salaries of Judicial Administrator,			
11	and assistants, including			
12	related benefits	\$	1,052,496	\$ 1,220,656
13	K. Salaries of thirteen (13) law clerks	\$	785,166	\$ 773,076
14	L. Salaries of four (4) secretaries	\$	227,400	\$ 224,948
15	M. Sanity Commissions	\$	58,855	\$ 60,179
16	N. Board of Jury Commissioners	\$	443,769	\$ 463,679
17	SUBTOTAL	\$	<u>6,979,439</u>	\$ <u>7,387,777</u>
18	14 Juvenile and Family Court Judges			
19	A. Salaries of thirteen (13) Juvenile			
20	Court Judges as provided by			
21	R.S. 13:691	\$	2,110,850	\$ 2,110,549
22	B. Salaries of four (4) Family Court			
23	Judges as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$	649,492	\$ 703,516
24	C. Office and travel expenses of Juvenile			
25	and Family Court Judges as			
26	provided by R.S. 13:698 and			
27	R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$	97,750	\$ 97,750
28	SUBTOTAL	\$	<u>2,858,092</u>	\$ <u>2,911,815</u>
29	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (District Courts):	\$	<u>54,408,570</u>	\$ <u>58,983,883</u>
30	MEANS OF FINANCE:			
31	State General Fund (Direct)	\$	<u>54,408,570</u>	\$ <u>58,983,883</u>
32	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING			
33	(District Courts):	\$	<u>54,408,570</u>	\$ <u>58,983,883</u>
34	<b>03-8173 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS</b>			
35	<b>REQUIRED BY STATUTE</b>			
36	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The category includes forty-seven city courts, one municipal and traffic court</i>			
37	<i>(New Orleans), and one parish court (Ascension Parish).</i>			
38			<b><u>FY 24 EOB</u></b>	<b><u>FY 25 REC</u></b>
39	01 Salaries of sixty (60) City Court			
40	Judges as provided by R.S. 13:1875	\$	3,145,602	\$ 3,407,236

1	02 Salaries of seven (7) Municipal and		
2	Traffic and one (1) Parish Court		
3	Judge as provided by R.S. 13:2492		
4	and 2563.5, respectively	\$ 455,923	\$ 493,846
5	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER COURTS		
6	REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	<u>\$ 3,601,525</u>	<u>\$ 3,901,082</u>
7	MEANS OF FINANCE:		
8	State General Fund (Direct)	\$ 3,601,525	\$ 3,901,082
9	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE (OTHER		
10	COURTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	<u>\$ 3,601,525</u>	<u>\$ 3,901,082</u>
11	<b>03-8174 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES NOT</b>		
12	<b>REQUIRED BY STATUTE</b>		
13		<b><u>FY 24 EOB</u></b>	<b><u>FY 25 REC</u></b>
14	01 Orleans Parish Juvenile Protective		
15	Care Monitoring Program	\$ 634,328	\$ 671,737
16	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The program tracks and maintains child abuse and neglect cases in the Orleans</i>		
17	<i>Parish Juvenile Court. It also provides assistance in support of the Families in Need of Services Program.</i>		
18	02 Orleans Parish Juvenile Court		
19	Reporters	\$ 118,978	\$ 127,652
20	03 For the expenses of the Judges'		
21	Assistance Program	\$ 61,877	\$ 63,269
22	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Judges' Assistance Program provides counseling and other assistance to</i>		
23	<i>judges with substance abuse problems.</i>		
24	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER COURTS		
25	NOT REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	<u>\$ 815,183</u>	<u>\$ 862,658</u>
26	MEANS OF FINANCE:		
27	State General Fund (Direct)	\$ 815,183	\$ 862,658
28	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE (OTHER		
29	COURTS NOT REQUIRED BY		
30	STATUTE)	<u>\$ 815,183</u>	<u>\$ 862,658</u>

31 Section 2.A. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or his duly authorized and  
 32 appointed agent, shall warrant the state treasurer for the allocations herein provided, or for  
 33 so much thereof as may be necessary. The aforesaid warrant shall be paid out of the State  
 34 General Fund, and the state treasurer shall pay said warrant by preference over all other  
 35 warrants, except warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state and warrants  
 36 for expenses of the legislature, which shall be concurrent with the warrant provided by this  
 37 Act.

38 B. The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the judiciary  
 39 in an approved bank that has been selected by the Supreme Court and is located in the state.



1 C. Any funds herein allocated to the judiciary, any portion of the funds previously  
2 appropriated to the judiciary, other revenue of the judiciary or its agencies, and interest  
3 earnings are hereby appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the judiciary;  
4 however, all funds remaining unexpended or unencumbered shall be returnable to the State  
5 General Fund on or before September 1, 2025.

6 D. For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, any surpluses occurring in the appropriations made in  
7 this Act may be transferred from one agency or line-item to another during the fiscal year  
8 in accordance with the rules of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the  
9 Supreme Court.

10 E. The adjustment to be made in the salaries of judicial employees and the number of  
11 authorized positions of the judiciary shall be as decided by the judicial agency affected,  
12 subject to the approval of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the  
13 Supreme Court.

14 F. The program descriptions contained in this Act are not part of the law and are not  
15 enacted into law by virtue of their inclusion in this Act.

16 G. The inclusion in this Act of staff salaries and benefits for lower court or other judicial  
17 branch agency employees shall not be deemed to create or impose any obligation upon the  
18 State of Louisiana Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the Judicial Budgetary  
19 Control Board, or the Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office relative to the  
20 administration of pay, retirement, or other benefits to any such employees. Accordingly, the  
21 State of Louisiana Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the Judicial Budgetary  
22 Control Board, and the Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office are not to be  
23 considered the "employer" or "employing agency" of lower court or other judicial agency  
24 employees whose staff salaries and other benefits are included in this Act.

25 Section 3. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
26 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be reduced by a total amount  
27 of Thirteen Million Six Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Five  
28 (\$13,666,285) Dollars, pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board  
29 or as approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

30 Section 4. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
31 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be increased by a total amount

1 of Two Million Seven Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Five  
2 (\$2,771,745) Dollars to be distributed as follows: Seven Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand One  
3 Hundred Forty-Two (\$758,142) Dollars for the funding of additional positions with Families  
4 in Need of Services and the Louisiana Protective Order Registry; Seven Hundred Thirty-  
5 Four Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Three (\$734,553) Dollars for the expansion of Families  
6 in Need of Services; Six Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$650,000) Dollars for Louisiana Drug and  
7 Specialty Courts; and Six Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Fifty (\$629,050) Dollars for  
8 Court Appointed Special Advocates.

9 Section 5. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
10 General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be increased by a total amount  
11 of Five Million Seven Hundred Thousand (\$5,700,000) Dollars for the operation of drug  
12 courts.

13 Section 6.(A) If the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Louisiana Judicial Budgetary  
14 Control Board each determine that the judiciary has sufficient funding from its approved  
15 bank account, as reflected in its balance as of June 30, 2024, to fund a one-time stipend as  
16 authorized in this Section, then the justices of the supreme court shall receive an additional  
17 one-time payment of Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty (\$15,280) Dollars; the judges  
18 of the courts of appeal shall receive an additional one-time payment of Seventeen Thousand  
19 Six Hundred Eighty (\$17,680) Dollars; the judges of the district courts shall receive an  
20 additional one-time payment of Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-One (\$14,691)  
21 Dollars; and the judges of city courts and parish courts shall receive an additional one-time  
22 payment of Eight and Forty-Five Hundredths (8.45) Percent of their current base salary.

23 (B) The one-time stipend authorized in this Section shall be funded solely by the  
24 approved bank account of the judiciary based on its balance as of June 30, 2024.

25 (C) The one-time stipend authorized in this Section shall become effective following the  
26 completion of a work point study of the appellate and district courts in Louisiana with the  
27 National Center for State Courts and the submission of a report to the Louisiana Supreme  
28 Court and the Judicial Structure Task Force continued pursuant to House Resolution No. 3  
29 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

1 (D) The one-time stipend authorized in this Section shall not be funded by a specific  
 2 appropriation of the Louisiana Legislature, and as such shall not be considered compensation  
 3 pursuant to Article V, Section 21 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

4 (E) Any salary increase pursuant to R.S. 13:5636 that occurs by operation of law shall  
 5 be considered a salary increase for purposes of Article V, Section 31 of the Constitution of  
 6 Louisiana.

7 Section 7. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2024; if vetoed by the governor  
 8 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
 9 2024, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

10 **COMPARATIVE STATEMENT**

11 In accordance with R.S. 39:51(D), the following represents a comparative statement for  
 12 each Court and program. The existing operating budget for FY 2023-2024 is compared  
 13 to the appropriations for FY 2024-2025 as contained in the original bill.

<u>Courts and Programs</u>	<u>Existing Operating Budget</u> <u>FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>Appropriation Request</u> <u>FY 2024-2025</u>
<u>By Expenditure:</u>		
Supreme Court	\$ 87,705,242	\$ 94,167,608
Courts of Appeal	\$ 51,986,944	\$ 55,830,638
District Courts	\$ 54,408,570	\$ 58,983,883
Other Courts (statutory)	\$ 3,601,525	\$ 3,901,082
Other Programs (non-statutory)	\$ 815,183	\$ 862,658
Reduction	\$ 0	\$ (\$13,666,285)
Addition	\$ 0	\$ 2,771,745
Addition	\$ 0	\$ 5,700,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$ 198,517,464</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 208,551,329</u></b>
<u>By Means of Finance:</u>		
Total General Fund (Direct)	\$ 178,883,689	\$ 192,510,095
Reduction General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ (13,666,285)
Addition General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ 2,771,745
Addition General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ 5,700,000
Total Interagency Transfers	\$ 9,392,850	\$ 9,392,850
Total Statutory Dedications	\$ 10,240,925	\$ 11,842,924
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b><u>\$ 198,517,464</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 208,551,329</u></b>

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_