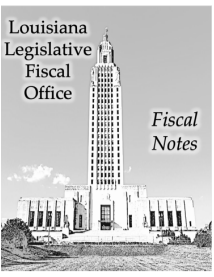


LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 597** HLS 26RS 401
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 27, 2026	5:53 PM	Author: MCMAKIN
Dept./Agy.: Judiciary		
Subject: Annual Increase in Compensation for Certain Judges		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

JUDGES OR +\$3,525,032 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to judicial compensation

Current law provides that the Judicial Compensation Commission is charged with the duty of studying judges' salaries and making recommendations to the legislature; requires the commission to submit recommendations concerning judges' salaries to the legislature 60 days prior to the commencement of any regular session of the legislature in an even-numbered year and permits a report to be submitted every two years thereafter at any regular session of the legislature in an even-numbered year; authorizes the legislature to adopt by concurrent resolution the same recommendations contained in the most recent report of the commission at a regular session convened in an odd-numbered year or at any extraordinary session if the recommendations are included within the object of that session. Proposed law removes current law relative to the determination of judicial salaries and provides that the salaries of judges shall be determined by the Department of the Treasury each year after 2/1 by determining the average of a five year rolling index of the consumer price index; provides that the increase shall not exceed the five-year rolling average for a percentage of increase in average annual pay for full-time classified state employees; provides that salary increases will only occur if approved by the Supreme Court and the Judicial Budgetary Control Board; provides that a salary increase will be suspended in any year if sufficient funds are available to fund the salary increase.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$3,525,032	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$3,525,032
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	\$3,525,032					\$3,525,032

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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 law will result in an increase of \$3.5 M in SGF expenditures in the Louisiana Supreme Court in FY 27 for increases in salaries of justices of the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, district courts, parish courts, city courts, and judicial commissioners. The average of a five year rolling index of the Consumer Price Index from January 2021 to January 2026 is approximately 4.47%. A breakdown of the salary increase by court is as follows:

	Base Salary	Supplement	# of Judges	FY 26 Total Salaries	FY 27 Increase (4.47%)
Supreme Court					
Chief Justice	\$191,489	\$13,800	1	\$ 205,289	\$ 9,176
Associate Justices	\$181,827	\$13,800	6	\$ 1,173,762	\$ 52,467
Courts of Appeal					
Chief Judge	\$178,448	\$13,800	5	\$ 961,240	\$ 42,967
Judges	\$169,408	\$13,800	48	\$ 8,793,984	\$ 393,091
District Court					
Magistrate	\$146,149	\$13,800	1	\$ 159,949	\$ 7,150
Judges	\$162,388	\$13,800	236	\$41,580,368	\$1,858,642
City Courts	\$ 51,447	\$ 4,375	60	\$ 3,349,320	\$ 149,715
Shreveport City Court	\$ 66,196	\$ 5,630	4	\$ 287,304	\$ 12,842
Monroe City Court	\$ 51,481	\$ 4,375	3	\$ 167,568	\$ 7,490
Ascension Parish Court	\$ 95,840	\$ 8,142	1	\$ 103,982	\$ 4,648
Commissioners					
15th and 19th JDC	\$146,150	\$12,420	3	\$ 475,710	\$ 21,264
Orleans Criminal Court	\$ 89,314	\$ 7,590	4	\$ 387,616	\$ 17,326
			372	\$57,646,092	\$2,576,778

FY 27 Increase (4.47%)	\$2,576,778
Related Benefits (36.8%)	\$ 948,254
Total FY 27 Increase	\$3,525,032

Note: Due to the inability to project the CPI in each future fiscal year, the projected fiscal impact in FY 28 through FY 30 is unknown.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate
 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