



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 295** HLS 19RS 851
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

Date:	Author: HILL
Dept./Agy.: Fourteenth Judicial District	Analyst: Philip Fach
Subject: Establishes a Magistrate Position	

COURTS/MAGISTRATES OR +\$165,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides for a magistrate judge in the 14th JDC

Purpose of Bill: This bill provides for an elected magistrate judge for the Fourteenth Judicial District Court (14th JDC) to take office on January 1, 2021. This bill also provides election requirements, prohibition on practicing law, compensation of the magistrate and payment of support services and personnel, and restrictions on matters that the magistrate can hear and preside over.

EXPENDITURES	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$82,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$577,000
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$5,800	\$11,600	\$11,600	\$11,600	\$40,600
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
Annual Total	\$0					\$0

REVENUES	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	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>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This measure may increase State General Fund and Statutorily Dedicated expenditures starting in January of 2021. An official with the Louisiana Supreme Court indicated that the state will pay the magistrate's salary and benefits using state general fund and statutorily dedicated money. This official projects that total salary and benefits will be \$87,800 in 2021 (\$82,000 state general fund and \$5,800 statutorily dedicated) for half of a year and \$176,600 annually thereafter (\$165,000 state general fund and \$11,600 statutorily dedicated).

The overall impact on Local Fund expenditures is indeterminable at this time. An official with the 14th JDC indicated that the magistrate (which will be paid using state general fund and statutorily dedicated money) will replace two ad-hoc judges that are currently compensated \$60,000 per year using local fund money. In addition, this official indicated that the only additional support service/staff that will be needed is a judicial secretary, which may be compensated up to \$70,200 annually using local fund money. The official also informed us that they have plans to pay a lesser amount to this position based on expected workload.

According to an official with the Secretary of State's Office, the election will be held at the same time as the Presidential/Congressional elections and there will be no additional costs to the state for having one more ballot item on the November/December election dates. This position will be a state candidate so there are no local costs for the elections.

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}

Michael G. Battle
 Manager, Advisory Services