



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 217** SLS 26RS 510
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

Date: March 31, 2026 5:09 PM	Author: MORRIS, JAY
Dept./Agy.: Orleans Parish Courts	
Subject: Operations of the Courts	Analyst: Barry Kelly

COURTS OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2
 Provides for the administration of courts in Orleans Parish and the number of court judges. (2/3 - CA 5s15(D)) (8/1/26)

Purpose of Bill: This bill reduces four Orleans Parish judgeships by abolishing two Civil District Court judgeships, one Municipal and Traffic Court judgeship; and one Orleans Parish Juvenile Court judgeship. It consolidates judicial funds into a single Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund managed by an executive committee and transfers crier compensation to the Orleans Parish Sheriff. Additionally, the bill mandates periodic Judicial Council studies on Criminal District Court judgeship needs, increases City Court civil limits to \$50,000, and shifts appellate jurisdiction for the First and Second City Courts and Municipal and Traffic Court from the Civil and Criminal District Courts to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Ded./Other	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						

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.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill may reduce state and local costs by abolishing judgeships and staff of various Orleans Parish courts. In addition, the bill may impact agency self-generated and local expenditures due to the shifting of caseloads from the District Courts to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and City Courts. The bill also shifts crier costs from the Civil District Court and City of New Orleans to the Orleans Parish Sheriff. The exact fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminable due to the unknown timing of judicial attrition and volume of shifted cases. See below for more detail on expenditure impacts:

Judges and Support Staff: Abolishing four judgeships and related staff may decrease annual state costs by \$856,625 (\$794,637 General Fund + \$61,988 Statutorily Dedicated) and local costs by \$1,443,697 (\$739,785 City of New Orleans + \$683,912 Civil District Court + \$20,000 Municipal/Traffic Court), as detailed below:

Category	Civil District	Muni/Traffic	Juvenile	Grand Total
Judges Eliminated	2	1	1	4
State General Fund (Judges)	\$475,312	\$81,669	\$237,656	\$794,637
Statutorily Dedicated (Judges)	\$37,376	\$5,924	\$18,688	\$61,988
Total State Decrease	\$512,688	\$87,593	\$256,344	\$856,625
Local Decrease (Judges + Staff)	\$683,912	\$473,500	\$286,285	\$1,443,697
GRAND TOTAL ANNUAL DECREASE	\$1,196,600	\$561,093	\$542,629	\$2,300,322

Expenditures Explanation Continued on Page 2

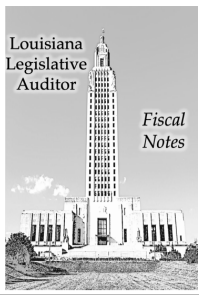
REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase agency self-generated and local fund revenues for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and First and Second City Courts while decreasing revenues for the Civil and Criminal District Courts as caseloads shift. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable as the volume, timing, and fees to be assessed on these transferred cases is currently unknown.

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



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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Expenditures Explanation Continued from Page 1

Caseload Shifts - The expansion of City Court civil limits and the rerouting of City Court and Municipal and Traffic Court appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal may increase expenditures for the First and Second City Courts and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. Conversely, this may decrease expenditures for the Civil and Criminal District Courts. The exact impact on local and agency self-generated expenditures in total and at the individual court levels is currently indeterminable due to unknown future case volumes and transfer timelines.

Crier Expenditures - This bill shifts the responsibility for Civil District Court criers to the Orleans Parish Sheriff, resulting in a transfer of expenditures rather than an increase in expenditures. Excluding the two crier positions associated with the abolished judgeships, the Civil District Court currently funds 12 criers at an annual cost of \$79,040 each. Transferring these positions may decrease the Court's annual payroll expenditures by an estimated \$948,480. Furthermore, state law requires the City of New Orleans to also contribute to crier compensation. Because the City's current contribution levels are unknown, the exact decrease in City expenditures is indeterminable. However, these costs will now be borne by the Sheriff's Office.

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Signature of Michael G. Battle
Michael G. Battle
Manager, Advisory Services