



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 288** SLS 22RS 577
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 4, 2022 12:49 PM	Author: HEWITT
Dept./Agy.: Supreme Court	Analyst: Rebecca Robinson
Subject: Constitutional amendment to increase number of justices	

COURTS OR +\$250,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Constitutional Amendment to increase the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six to eight associate justices. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

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. Proposes to transition to nine single-member districts. Proposed that the measure be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8, 2022.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$250,000	\$1,188,480	\$1,742,721	\$1,805,355	\$1,871,315	\$6,857,871
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	\$250,000	\$1,188,480	\$1,742,721	\$1,805,355	\$1,871,315	\$6,857,871

REVENUES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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

There will be an increase in SGF expenditures for the Louisiana Supreme Court (LSC) if this constitutional amendment is approved by the voters in November 2022. To the extent the voters approve the measure, the LSC will increase its associate justices from six to eight. The LSC reports the addition of two associate justices will require six additional law clerks and two administrative assistants, and renovations to existing facilities to accommodate additional office space. LSC estimates there will be an increase in one-time expenditures of \$500,000 for renovations of office space at the Supreme Court and \$95,503 for acquisition of computers, office furniture, and the phone system. LSC estimates recurring annual expenses of approximately \$1.7 M. Costs are expected to increase marginally each year due to scheduled judicial salary increases, merit-based pay increases for support staff, and inflationary costs for operating expenses.

Recurring Annual Expenditures:

\$651,626	Salaries and related benefits for 2 associate justices
\$789,662	Salaries and related benefits for 6 law clerks
\$173,256	Salaries and related benefits for 2 administrative assistants
\$2,000	Office supplies
\$53,656	Operating expenses
\$54,080	Travel expenses
<u>\$18,381</u>	Office equipment
\$1,742,661	

Note: The one-time cost of \$500,000 for renovations at 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, will be split evenly between FY 23 and FY 24.

Note: Proposed constitutional amendment contemplates increasing the number of supreme court districts from at least six to at least nine districts. There are currently seven districts, which would be a net increase of two districts. The Secretary of State may incur minimal ballot printing 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. Any expenditure impact would be realized in FY 23. The Secretary of State would likely realize programming costs to align voting maps and machines to the new configuration. The amount of the total cost is unknown, but likely to be marginal because the department will be undertaking these same actions for other redistricting actions.

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}

Evan Brasseaux

Evan Brasseaux
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer