

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 324

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

JUDGES: Provides relative to judicial salaries

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:51, relative to judicial salaries; to provide for salary increases for judges
3 of the Louisiana Supreme Court, courts of appeal, district courts, city courts, and
4 parish courts; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:51 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §51. Salary as recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission

8 A.(1) The supplement paid pursuant to and authorized by Section 5 of Act
9 390 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature shall terminate on June 30, 2026,
10 but shall be continued as a cost of living adjustment to salary effective on July 1,
11 2026.

12 (2) On July 1, 2026, after adjustment pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this
13 Subsection and subject to the provisions of Subsection E of this Section, the actual
14 salary of the judges of the Louisiana Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and district
15 courts and the state-paid actual salary of the judges of the city courts and parish
16 courts shall reflect the recommended cost of living adjustment and be increased by
17 the amount recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission reflecting a
18 total increase of less than two percent for each year since the last increase as follows:

19 (a) Twelve thousand one hundred twenty-nine dollars for the justices of the
20 Louisiana Supreme Court.

1 (b) Eleven thousand four hundred thirty-one dollars for the judges of the
2 courts of appeal.

3 (c) Ten thousand seven hundred twenty-three dollars for the judges of the
4 district courts.

5 (d) An amount for judges of the city and parish courts that would increase
6 the state-paid salary of the judges by the same percentage as district court judges.

7 B. On July 1, 2027, subject to the provisions of Subsection D of this Section,
8 the actual salary of the judges of the Louisiana Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and
9 district courts and the state-paid actual salary of the judges of the city courts and
10 parish courts shall be increased by two and seven tenths percent.

11 C. On July 1, 2028, subject to the provisions of Subsection D of this Section,
12 the actual salary of the judges of the Louisiana Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and
13 district courts and the state-paid actual salary of the judges of the city courts and
14 parish courts shall be increased by two and one tenth percent.

15 D. The cost of living adjustments authorized by Subsections B and C of this
16 Section are contingent upon approval prior to each July first by the Louisiana
17 Supreme Court and the Louisiana Judicial Budgetary Control Board, after each has
18 made a determination that the judiciary has sufficient funding for such adjustments
19 prior to approving the increases. The amount due for any particular year shall be
20 suspended if there is insufficient funding.

21 E. The cost of living adjustment authorized pursuant to Paragraph (A)(2) of
22 this Section for Fiscal Year 2026-27 shall be funded by the judiciary itself upon
23 certification by the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Louisiana Judicial Budgetary
24 Control Board that the judiciary has sufficient reserves to satisfy the obligation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 324 Original

2026 Regular Session

Villio

Abstract: Provides relative to judicial salaries.

Proposed law provides for the termination of the supplement paid pursuant to and authorized by Section 5 of Act 390 of the 2025 Regular Session on June 30, 2026. However, effective July 1, 2026, proposed law requires the supplement to continue as a cost of living adjustment to salary.

Proposed law requires effective July 1, 2026, after adjustment pursuant to proposed law and subject to the provisions of proposed law, for the actual salary of the judges of the La. Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and district courts and the state-paid actual salary of the judges of the city courts and parish courts to reflect the recommended cost of living adjustment and be increased by the amount recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission reflecting a total increase of less than 2% for each year since the last increase as follows:

- (1) \$12,129 for the justices of the La. Supreme Court.
- (2) \$11,431 for the judges of the courts of appeal.
- (3) \$10,723 for the judges of the district courts.
- (4) An amount for judges of the city and parish courts that would increase their state-paid salary by the same percentage as district court judges.

Proposed law requires that, effective July 1, 2027, subject to the provisions of proposed law, the actual salary of the judges of the La. Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and district courts and the state-paid actual salary of the judges of the city courts and parish courts be increased by 2.7%.

Proposed law requires that, effective on July 1, 2028, subject to the provisions of proposed law, the actual salary of the judges of the La. Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and district courts and the state-paid actual salary of the judges of the city courts and parish courts be increased by 2.1%.

Proposed law provides that the cost of living adjustments authorized by proposed law are contingent upon approval prior to each July 1st by the La. Supreme Court and the La. Judicial Budgetary Control Board, after each has made a determination that the judiciary has sufficient funding for such adjustments prior to approving the increases. Further requires that the amount due for any particular year be suspended if there is insufficient funding.

Proposed law requires that the cost of living adjustment authorized pursuant to proposed law for Fiscal Year 2026-27 be funded by the judiciary itself upon certification by the La. Supreme Court and the La. Judicial Budgetary Control Board that the judiciary has sufficient reserves to satisfy the obligation.

(Adds R.S. 13:51)