



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 911** HLS 26RS 1258
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

Date:	Author: MCMAKIN
Dept./Agy.: Orleans Parish Courts and Clerks of Court	
Subject: Consolidation	Analyst: Barry Kelly

PARISH/ORLEANS EG SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 2
 Provides for the complete reform and modernization of the judicial components of Orleans Parish

Purpose of Bill: This bill reorganizes the judicial components of Orleans Parish by: (1) consolidating the Civil and Criminal District Courts and the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court into the newly established 41st Judicial District Court and reducing the total number of authorized judgeships and magistrate commissioners; (2) consolidating the clerks of the Civil and Criminal District Courts and the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court into a single clerk of court office and reducing the total number of clerks of court; (3) consolidating the various judicial expense funds into a single Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund; and (4) shifting 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 approximately \$7 Million annually (\$3.4M in State General Funds; \$200,000 in Statutorily Dedicated Funds; and \$3.4M in Local Funds). This reduction is due to the elimination of judgeships, clerk positions, and related staff across 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. This cost reduction could be affected by unknown consolidation costs, timing of judicial attrition, and volume of shifted cases.

Judges: Abolishing nine judgeships may decrease annual state costs by \$2,307,096 (\$2,138,904 State General Fund + \$168,192 Statutorily Dedicated), as detailed below:

Category	Criminal	Civil	Juvenile	Grand Total
Judges Eliminated	3	4	2	9
State General Fund	\$712,968	\$950,624	\$475,312	\$2,138,904
Statutorily Dedicated	\$56,064	\$74,752	\$37,376	\$168,192
Total State Decrease	\$769,032	\$1,025,376	\$512,688	\$2,307,096

Commissioners: This bill reduces the authorized number of Magistrate Commissioners from four to a maximum of two. Based on information provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court, the cost of a single commissioner's annual salary and benefits is \$143,687 (\$133,580 State General Fund + \$10,107 statutory dedication). The state expenditures may decrease by up to \$574,748 annually (\$534,320 State General Fund + \$40,428 statutory dedication) if four commissioners are eliminated, but the actual impact will depend upon how many commissioners are eliminated.

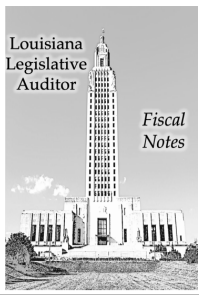
Expenditure Explanation Continued on Page 2

REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill may shift revenue generated by Civil and Criminal District Courts on appeals cases to the the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal as caseloads shift due to changes in appeals jurisdiction. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable as the volume, timing, and fees to be assessed on these cases is currently unknown. In addition, court system revenue may be impacted by the recommendations of the Consolidation Review Committee. Revenue Explanation Continued on Page 2

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|---|----------------------------|--|
| <u>Senate</u> | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} | | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H} | | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} |

Steven Kraemer
 Senior Technology Advisory



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED (from page 1)

Clerks: Upon the expiration of the current Criminal District Court Clerk's term, the bill consolidates the Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile clerks of court into a single clerk of court...

Judge Staffing: Abolishing these nine judgeships may also eliminate their associated support staff positions. Because funding sources vary by court, the resulting expenditures decrease may impact both state and local funds...

Table with 5 columns: Category, Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, Grand Total. Rows include State General Fund, Local Fund, and GRAND TOTAL ANNUAL DECREASE.

Note: Current law redirects local Juvenile judgeship savings to juvenile services within the City.

Commissioner Staffing: The abolition of between two and four commissioner positions will also eliminate their associated support staff, which consists of one minute clerk and one court reporter per commissioner...

Administrative Staffing: While the consolidation of the courts and clerks could reduce administrative costs through the merger of redundant Human Resources, IT, and Finance departments, the bill does not mandate reductions in such staff...

Consolidation Expenditures: Initial consolidation and merger expenditures may increase in the short term due to costs associated with rebranding (e.g., signs, stationery), integrating complex IT and records management systems...

REVENUE EXPLANATION CONTINUED (from page 1)

Caseload Shifts: The rerouting of City Court and Municipal and Traffic Court appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal may increase expenditures and revenues for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and decrease expenditures and revenues for the Civil and Criminal District Courts...

Accounting and Control: This bill creates the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund (CJEF) for the parish of Orleans to centralize the accounting and control of the judicial expense funds currently maintained separately by the Criminal District, Civil District, and Juvenile Courts...

- 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}

Signature of Steven Kraemer, Senior Technology Advisory