

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 983

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

APPROPRIATIONS: Appropriates funds for the expenses of the judiciary for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

1 AN ACT

2 To appropriate funds to defray the expenses of the Louisiana Judiciary, including the
3 Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, Criminal District Court of Orleans
4 Parish, and other courts; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. A. The sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Million Six Hundred Forty-
8 Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Five and No/100 (\$229,647,995) Dollars, or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of the judiciary,
10 including the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, the District Courts, the Criminal District
11 Court of Orleans Parish, and of the other courts.

12 B. The total amount herein appropriated is hereby allocated to provide as follows:

13 **03-8170 SUPREME COURT**

14 **Program Description:** *The Supreme Court has general supervisory jurisdiction over all lower courts.*
15 *It may establish procedural and administrative rules not in conflict with law and may assign a sitting or*
16 *retired judge to any court. The Supreme Court has sole authority to provide by rule for appointments of*
17 *attorneys as temporary or ad hoc judges. It considers applications for writs to review individual cases,*
18 *and has criminal and other appellate jurisdiction. The Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction*
19 *of disciplinary proceedings against lawyers, recommendations of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana*
20 *for the discipline of judges, and fact questions affecting its appellate jurisdiction. It has inherent authority*
21 *to regulate the legal profession and to promulgate and update the Code of Judicial Conduct. The court*
22 *also provides judicial training through the Judicial College and works to improve the administration of*
23 *justice.*

		<u>FY 26 EOB</u>	<u>FY 27 REC</u>
24			
25	01 Salaries of one (1) Chief Justice and		
26	six (6) Associate Justices of the		
27	Supreme Court, as provided by		
28	R.S. 13:102	\$ 1,282,315	\$ 1,389,275

1	02	Salaries and other expenses of the			
2		Supreme Court Proper and salary of			
3		the Crier of the Supreme Court	\$	12,756,202	\$ 14,551,918
4	03	Expenses of Judicial Administrator's			
5		Office and of the Judiciary			
6		Commission provided for in Article V,			
7		Section 25 of the Constitution of			
8		Louisiana and under the provisions of			
9		R.S. 13:32 et seq.			
10	A.	Expenses of Judicial			
11		Administrator's Office	\$	6,275,493	\$ 7,231,002
12		Program Description: <i>The Judicial Administrator's Office assists the Supreme Court in the</i>			
13		<i>administration of the state court system. It staffs the Judicial Council and the Judiciary Commission of</i>			
14		<i>Louisiana. Through the Judicial Council, it performs studies and makes recommendations for the creation</i>			
15		<i>of new judgeships and for improving the administration of justice. The Judicial Administrator's Office</i>			
16		<i>provides payroll and other fiscal services to the Judiciary, including the administration of a judicial</i>			
17		<i>retirement system; support for the Supreme Court and Appellate Court human resource system; and</i>			
18		<i>support for judicial branch reporting obligations. The Judicial Administrator's Office also manages the</i>			
19		<i>ad hoc judgeship system, monitors cases under advisement, provides support for initiatives to ensure</i>			
20		<i>access to the courts for limited English proficiency individuals; provides outreach services to state and</i>			
21		<i>local courts, applies for and administers grants to improve judicial administration; and staffs the</i>			
22		<i>Committee on Judicial Ethics. The Judicial Administrator's office administers several programs, including</i>			
23		<i>the Supreme Court Drug Court / Specialty Court Office, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, and</i>			
24		<i>CASA and FINS through the Division of Children and Families. The Judicial Administrator's office also</i>			
25		<i>provides staff support for the Louisiana Judicial College, and performs numerous legal services for the</i>			
26		<i>Supreme Court and the Judiciary.</i>			
27	B.	Expenses of Judiciary Commission	\$	2,386,103	\$ 3,300,240
28		Program Description: <i>The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana is a constitutional body established under</i>			
29		<i>Article V, Section 25 of the Constitution of 1974 to accept, screen, investigate, and prosecute complaints</i>			
30		<i>of judicial misconduct. As part of its authority, it may recommend to the Supreme Court the censure,</i>			
31		<i>suspension, removal from office, or involuntary retirement of any judge for ethical misconduct.</i>			
32	C.	Statistical Reporting Systems	\$	367,770	\$ 385,212
33	D.	Dues to National Center for			
34		State Courts	\$	186,000	\$ 186,000
35	04	Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary			
36		Board, as per Louisiana Supreme			
37		Court Rule XIX	\$	3,000	\$ 3,000
38	05	Compensation and expenses of retired			
39		judges assigned under Article V,			
40		Section 5(A) of the Constitution of			
41		Louisiana, be it more or less			
42		estimated at	\$	873,866	\$ 1,008,236
43	06	Law Library of Louisiana for salaries,			
44		services, supplies, maintenance, repairs,			
45		and equipment	\$	1,983,606	\$ 2,194,758
46					
47		Program Description: <i>The Law Library of Louisiana serves the legal information needs of the state</i>			
48		<i>judiciary, and is open to members of the bar and public.</i>			
49	07	Salaries and expenses of transferred			
50		judges assigned under Article V,			
51		Section 5(A) of the Constitution,			
52		be it more or less estimated as	\$	75,000	\$ 78,750

1	08	Retirement pay for services rendered by			
2		justices and judges of all courts, as			
3		provided by R.S. 11:1358	\$	539,000	\$ 458,935
4	09	Pensions for widows of justices and			
5		judges of all courts, as provided by			
6		R.S. 11:1371 and R.S. 11:1381, be it			
7		more or less estimated at	\$	715,000	\$ 729,300
8	10	Judicial College	\$	271,508	\$ 372,976
9		Program Description: <i>The Judicial College was established by order of the Supreme Court in 1976 to</i>			
10		<i>provide continuing legal education to Louisiana judges.</i>			
11	11	State contribution to judicial			
12		retirement provided for in Article V,			
13		Section 23 of the Constitution and			
14		R.S. 11:551 et seq., be it more or			
15		less estimated at	\$	19,638,283	\$ 20,034,525
16	12	Civil commitment matters as			
17		required by R.S. 28:54	\$	394,520	\$ 394,520
18	13	Paul M. Hebert Law Center for			
19		expenses of storage of appellate			
20		court records	\$	60,000	\$ 60,000
21	14	Funding for statewide operations of the			
22		Louisiana Protective Order Registry			
23		(R.S. 46:2136.2) under the Case			
24		Management Information System	\$	1,598,319	\$ 1,829,518
25	15	Information Technology	\$	2,199,682	\$ 2,377,527
26	16	Operational expenses of			
27		the Families in Need of Services			
28		Program (FINS)	\$	3,606,522	\$ 3,724,483
29		Program Description: <i>The mission of the FINS Assistance Program is to assist local FINS processes by</i>			
30		<i>developing and implementing a needs-based allocation formula; developing, implementing, and mandating</i>			
31		<i>the use of a uniform data system for tracking, managing, and reporting FINS informal cases; developing</i>			
32		<i>and mandating the use of programmatic standards; developing, implementing, and reporting performance</i>			
33		<i>indicators and measures; requiring and monitoring periodic fiscal reports and financial accountability;</i>			
34		<i>and, generally supervising and assisting local FINS processes in other ways.</i>			
35					
36	17	Louisiana Drug and Specialty Courts	\$	21,235,993	\$ 21,353,718
37		Program Description: <i>Louisiana Drug and Specialty Courts, such as Drug/DWI Treatment Courts,</i>			
38		<i>authorized in 1977 by R.S. 13:5301-5304; Reentry Courts, authorized in 2010 by R.S. 13:5401; Mental</i>			
39		<i>Health Courts, authorized in 2013 by R.S. 13:5353 - 5358; Swift and Certain Program, authorized by R.S.</i>			
40		<i>13:5371; and Veterans Treatment Courts, authorized in 2014 by R.S. 13:5361 - 5368, are proven and</i>			
41		<i>effective alternatives to traditional criminal justice interventions. These programs provide integrated</i>			
42		<i>treatment for substance use and mental health disorders, including the appropriate use of sanctions and</i>			
43		<i>incentives along with case management, to place participants in need of services into appropriate</i>			
44		<i>community-based and judicially supervised rehabilitation programs. Clients are regularly tested and</i>			
45		<i>monitored for compliance with educational, employment, and treatment requirements pursuant to current</i>			
46		<i>best practices and the proven national model.</i>			
47	18	Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$	8,383,456	\$ 8,986,012
48		Program Description: <i>The purpose of the CASA Assistance Program is to promote timely placement of</i>			
49		<i>children in need of care in permanent, safe and stable homes, in accordance with the provisions of</i>			
50		<i>Children's Code articles 424-426. Services are provided through local CASA programs which recruit,</i>			

1 *screen, train and supervise community advocates. Upon appointment by the trial judge, qualified*
 2 *advocates serve children by providing independent factual information to the judge, advocating for the best*
 3 *interest of the children, monitoring cases to which they have been assigned, and advising and assisting the*
 4 *judge in the determination of the best interest of the children involved.*

5	19	Judges' supplemental compensation			
6		R.S. 13:10.3, be it more or less			
7		estimated at	\$	7,785,844	\$ 7,785,844

8 **Program Description:** *The Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund was established by the Legislature*
 9 *in 1985 to fund salary supplements and salary-related expenses to judges and commissioners. The funding*
 10 *source is a non-refundable filing fee assessed on civil filings as provided in R.S. 13:10.3.*

11	20	Case Management Information System,			
12		Article 887(F) of the Code of Criminal			
13		Procedure, be it more or less			
14		estimated at	\$	<u>4,057,080</u>	\$ <u>4,057,080</u>

15 **Program Description:** *The Case Management Information System (CMIS) was created by the Supreme*
 16 *Court in 1993 to provide a statewide information system for tracking and managing criminal, civil,*
 17 *juvenile, traffic, and appellate cases as well as protective orders. Data is received from courts statewide,*
 18 *transferred to the CMIS repository, and made available to courts and executive branch agencies.*
 19 *Additional information will also be available from the Department of Public Safety & Corrections. CMIS*
 20 *is funded from a court cost assessed on all criminal and traffic convictions as provided under*
 21 *C.Cr.P.887(F).*

22	TOTAL EXPENDITURES:				
			\$	<u>96,674,562</u>	\$ <u>102,492,829</u>

23	MEANS OF FINANCE:				
24	State General Fund (Direct)		\$	75,438,788	\$ 81,257,055
25	State General Fund by:				
26	Interagency Transfers		\$	9,392,850	\$ 9,392,850
27	Statutory Dedications:				
28	Judges' Supplemental Compensation				
29	Fund		\$	7,785,844	\$ 7,785,844
30	Trial Court Case Management				
31	Information Fund		\$	<u>4,057,080</u>	\$ <u>4,057,080</u>

32	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING				
			\$	<u>96,674,562</u>	\$ <u>102,492,829</u>

33 **03-8171 COURTS OF APPEAL**

34 **Program Description:** *The five courts of appeal, domiciled in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lake Charles,*
 35 *New Orleans, and Gretna, have supervisory jurisdiction over all cases arising within their respective*
 36 *circuits, subject to the general supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Each court of appeal also*
 37 *has appellate jurisdiction over all civil matters, all matters appealed from family and juvenile courts, and*
 38 *all criminal cases triable by a jury which arise within its circuit, except for those cases appealable directly*
 39 *to the Supreme Court or to the district courts.*

				<u>FY 26 EOB</u>	<u>FY 27 REC</u>
40	01	Salaries of five (5) Chief Judges			
41		and forty-eight (48) Judges of			
42		the Courts of Appeal, R.S. 13:311	\$	9,022,841	\$ 9,959,881
43					
44	02	Salaries and expenses of operation			
45		and maintenance of the Court of			
46		appeal, First Circuit	\$	11,466,595	\$ 14,190,714
47	03	Salaries and expenses of operation			
48		and maintenance of the Court of			
49		appeal, Second Circuit	\$	6,494,697	\$ 7,640,157

1	04	Salaries and expenses of operation		
2		and maintenance of the Court of		
3		appeal, Third Circuit	\$ 9,876,889	\$ 11,520,614
4	05	Salaries and expenses of operation		
5		and maintenance of the Court of		
6		Appeal, Fourth Circuit	\$ 9,216,537	\$ 10,845,175
7	06	Salaries and expenses of operation		
8		and maintenance of the Court of		
9		Appeal, Fifth Circuit	<u>\$ 6,798,850</u>	<u>\$ 8,593,725</u>
10		TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	<u>\$ 52,876,409</u>	<u>\$ 62,750,266</u>
11		MEANS OF FINANCE:		
12		State General Fund (Direct)	<u>\$ 52,876,409</u>	<u>\$ 62,750,266</u>
13		TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	<u>\$ 52,876,409</u>	<u>\$ 62,750,266</u>

14 **03-8172 DISTRICT COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS**
15 **REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

16 ***Program Description:** There are forty-one district courts in Louisiana that have general jurisdiction over*
17 *all matters within their territorial limits, except in those judicial districts (the 1st, the 19th, and the 24th*
18 *Judicial Districts) where family and juvenile courts have exclusive jurisdiction over certain types of cases*
19 *and except in Orleans Parish where there are separate courts exercising civil, criminal, and juvenile*
20 *jurisdictions. In certain cases, the forty-one general jurisdiction courts have concurrent jurisdiction with*
21 *justices of the peace and parish courts. The district courts generally have appellate jurisdiction of*
22 *criminal cases tried by city, parish, municipal, traffic, and mayors' courts, except in certain cases. The*
23 *district courts also have appellate jurisdiction over justices of the peace in parishes where no parish courts*
24 *exist. The Civil District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction of all civil cases in that parish. The*
25 *Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction over all criminal cases in that parish. It also*
26 *has general supervisory jurisdiction over the municipal and traffic court in Orleans Parish. The Family*
27 *Court of East Baton Rouge Parish has exclusive jurisdiction of many domestic cases in that parish. The*
28 *four juvenile courts located in Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans parishes have exclusive*
29 *jurisdiction of juvenile cases in their respective parishes.*

			<u>FY 26 EOB</u>	<u>FY 27 REC</u>
30				
31	01	Salaries of two hundred twenty-one		
32		(221) District Judges as provided		
33		by R.S. 13:691	\$ 35,543,471	\$ 39,113,459
34	02	Office and travel expenses of District		
35		Judges as provided by R.S. 13:698		
36		and R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$ 1,448,650	\$ 1,471,300
37				
38	03	Salaries of two (2) Court Reporters		
39		of the Twentieth Judicial District Court,		
40		including retirement contributions, as		
41		provided by R.S. 13:966.1	\$ 114,514	\$ 114,979
42	04	Clerk of Civil District Court, Orleans		
43		Parish, as provided by R.S. 13:1212(A)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
44	05	State share of Group, Workers'		
45		Compensation, General Liability, and		
46		Property Insurance Premiums as		
47		provided by R.S. 42:851	\$ 8,663,498	\$ 9,187,615

1	06	Salaries of two (2) commissioners of			
2		the Nineteenth Judicial District and			
3		one (1) commissioner of the Fifteenth			
4		Judicial District as provided by			
5		R.S. 13:712 and R.S. 13:715,			
6		respectively	\$	650,843	\$ 675,343
7	07	Office expenses for the Judicial			
8		Expense Fund of the Nineteenth Judicial			
9		District Court as provided by			
10		R.S. 13:711-713	\$	483,945	\$ 616,348
11	08	Office expenses for the Judicial			
12		Expense Fund of the Fifteenth			
13		Judicial District Court as provided			
14		by R.S. 13:714-716	\$	307,831	\$ 321,720
15	09	Law Clerk, Twentieth Judicial District			
16		Court as provided by Act 747 of 1977	\$	49,311	\$ 49,311
17	10	For the expenses of the Judicial Expense			
18		Fund, Tenth Judicial District Court as			
19		provided by Act 57 of 2006	\$	35,000	\$ 35,000
20		SUBTOTAL	\$	<u>47,307,063</u>	\$ <u>51,595,075</u>
21	11	Criminal Court - Parish of Orleans			
22		Program Description: <i>The Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans has</i>			
23		<i>exclusive jurisdiction of the trial and punishment of all crimes, misdemeanors, and</i>			
24		<i>offenses committed within the parish of Orleans, if the jurisdiction is not vested by law</i>			
25		<i>in some other court. The court, through its magistrate and with assistance from its</i>			
26		<i>commissioners, has the power of committing magistrates in all felony charges and the</i>			
27		<i>power to hold preliminary examinations, with authority to bail or discharge, or to hold</i>			
28		<i>for trial, in all cases before the court. The court has appellate jurisdiction of all cases</i>			
29		<i>tried before the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans and has general</i>			
30		<i>supervisory jurisdiction over these courts.</i>			
31	A.	State's share of group insurance			
32		for personnel of Criminal Court			
33		as provided by R.S. 42:851	\$	849,145	\$ 904,573
34	B.	Salaries of thirteen (13) minute			
35		clerks as provided by R.S.			
36		13:1373.1	\$	294,775	\$ 278,349
37	C.	Salaries of twenty-six (26) court			
38		reporters as provided by R.S.			
39		13:1373.1	\$	460,845	\$ 438,052
40	D.	Salaries of four (4) commissioners			
41		of Criminal Court, Orleans Parish,			
42		including related benefits as			
43		provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$	567,412	\$ 578,938
44	E.	Office and travel expenses of			
45		commissioners as provided by			
46		R.S. 13:1347	\$	10,600	\$ 10,600

1	F. Salaries of four (4) minute clerks,		
2	one for each commissioner		
3	as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$ 79,683	\$ 76,113
4	G. Salaries of four (4) court reporters,		
5	one for each commissioner		
6	as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$ 58,103	\$ 55,854
7	H. Salaries of Judicial Administrator,		
8	and assistants, including		
9	related benefits	\$ 1,102,944	\$ 1,155,866
10	I. Salaries of thirteen (13) law clerks	\$ 785,166	\$ 797,217
11	J. Salaries of four (4) secretaries	\$ 227,400	\$ 237,679
12	K. Sanity Commissions	\$ 58,855	\$ 60,209
13	L. Board of Jury Commissioners	\$ 449,742	\$ 467,633
14	SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 4,944,670</u>	<u>\$ 5,061,083</u>
15	12 Juvenile and Family Court Judges		
16	A. Salaries of twelve (12) Juvenile		
17	Court Judges as provided by		
18	R.S. 13:691	\$ 2,110,850	\$ 2,124,769
19	B. Salaries of four (4) Family Court		
20	Judges as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$ 649,492	\$ 708,256
21	C. Office and travel expenses of Juvenile		
22	and Family Court Judges as		
23	provided by R.S. 13:698 and		
24	R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$ 97,750	\$ 92,000
25	SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 2,858,092</u>	<u>\$ 2,925,025</u>
26	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (District Courts):	<u>\$ 55,109,825</u>	<u>\$ 59,581,183</u>
27	MEANS OF FINANCE:		
28	State General Fund (Direct)	<u>\$ 55,109,825</u>	<u>\$ 59,581,183</u>
29	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING		
30	(District Courts):	<u>\$ 55,109,825</u>	<u>\$ 59,581,183</u>
31	03-8173 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS		
32	REQUIRED BY STATUTE		
33	Program Description: <i>The category includes forty-seven city courts, one municipal and traffic court</i>		
34	<i>(New Orleans), and one parish court (Ascension Parish).</i>		
35		<u>FY 26 EOB</u>	<u>FY 27 REC</u>
36	01 Salaries of sixty (60) City Court		
37	Judges as provided by R.S. 13:1875	\$ 3,145,602	\$ 3,432,068
38	02 Salaries of seven (7) Municipal and		
39	Traffic and one (1) Parish Court		
40	Judge as provided by R.S. 13:2492		
41	and 2563.5, respectively	<u>\$ 455,923</u>	<u>\$ 497,443</u>

1	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER COURTS		
2	REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	\$ <u>3,601,525</u>	\$ <u>3,929,511</u>
3	MEANS OF FINANCE:		
4	State General Fund (Direct)	\$ <u>3,601,525</u>	\$ <u>3,929,511</u>
5	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE (OTHER		
6	COURTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	\$ <u>3,601,525</u>	\$ <u>3,929,511</u>

7 **03-8174 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES NOT**
8 **REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

		<u>FY 26 EOB</u>	<u>FY 27 REC</u>
9			
10	01 Orleans Parish Juvenile Protective		
11	Care Monitoring Program	\$ 645,551	\$ 700,208
12	Program Description: <i>The program tracks and maintains child abuse and neglect cases in the Orleans</i>		
13	<i>Parish Juvenile Court. It also provides assistance in support of the Families in Need of Services Program.</i>		
14	02 Orleans Parish Juvenile Court		
15	Reporters	\$ 121,580	\$ 130,698
16	03 For the expenses of the Judges'		
17	Assistance Program	\$ <u>61,877</u>	\$ <u>63,300</u>

18 **Program Description:** *The Judges' Assistance Program provides counseling and other assistance to*
19 *judges with substance abuse problems.*

20	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (OTHER COURTS		
21	NOT REQUIRED BY STATUTE)	\$ <u>829,008</u>	\$ <u>894,206</u>
22	MEANS OF FINANCE:		
23	State General Fund (Direct)	\$ <u>829,008</u>	\$ <u>894,206</u>
24	TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE (OTHER		
25	COURTS NOT REQUIRED BY		
26	STATUTE)	\$ <u>829,008</u>	\$ <u>894,206</u>

27 Section 2.A. The Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, or his duly authorized
28 and appointed agent, shall warrant the state treasurer for the allocations herein provided, or
29 for so much thereof as may be necessary. The aforesaid warrant shall be paid out of the state
30 general fund, and the state treasurer shall pay said warrant by preference over all other
31 warrants, except warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state and warrants
32 for expenses of the legislature, which shall be concurrent with the warrant provided by this
33 Act.

34 B. The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the judiciary
35 in an approved bank that has been selected by the Louisiana Supreme Court and is located
36 in the state.

37 C. Any funds herein allocated to the judiciary, any portion of the funds previously
38 appropriated to the judiciary, other revenue of the judiciary or its agencies, and interest

1 earnings are hereby appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the judiciary;
2 however, all funds remaining unexpended or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state
3 general fund on or before September 1, 2027.

4 D. For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, any surpluses occurring in the appropriations made in
5 this Act may be transferred from one agency or line-item to another during the fiscal year
6 in accordance with the rules of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the
7 Louisiana Supreme Court.

8 E. The adjustment to be made in the salaries of judicial employees and the number of
9 authorized positions of the judiciary shall be as decided by the judicial agency affected,
10 subject to the approval of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the
11 Louisiana Supreme Court.

12 F. The program descriptions contained in this Act are not part of the law and are not
13 enacted into law by virtue of their inclusion in this Act.

14 G. The inclusion in this Act of staff salaries and benefits for lower court or other judicial
15 branch agency employees shall not be deemed to create or impose any obligation upon the
16 State of Louisiana judicial branch, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Judicial Budgetary
17 Control Board, or the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office relative to
18 the administration of pay, retirement, or other benefits to any such employees. Accordingly,
19 the State of Louisiana judicial branch, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Judicial Budgetary
20 Control Board, and the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office are not to
21 be considered the "employer" or "employing agency" of lower court or other judicial agency
22 employees whose staff salaries and other benefits are included in this Act.

23 Section 3. A. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the
24 State General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be reduced by a total
25 amount of Twenty Million Five Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six
26 (\$20,556,666) Dollars, pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board
27 or the Louisiana Supreme Court.

28 B. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State General
29 Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be increased by a total amount of
30 Eighteen Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Twelve and No/100 (\$18,268,012)

1 Dollars to be distributed as follows: Five Million Thirty-One Thousand (\$5,031,000) Dollars
 2 for Families in Need of Services; Six Million Four Hundred Eight-Three Thousand Ninety-
 3 Six (\$6,483,096) Dollars for an adjustment to the staff pay plan; and Six Million Seven
 4 Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen (\$6,753,916) Dollars for a salary
 5 increases for justices of the supreme court and judges of the courts of appeal, district courts,
 6 juvenile and family courts, and other courts.

7 Section 4. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026; if vetoed by the governor
 8 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
 9 2026, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

10 **COMPARATIVE STATEMENT**

11 In accordance with R.S. 39:51(D), the following represents a comparative statement for each
 12 Court and program. The existing operating budget for FY 2025-2026 is compared to the
 13 appropriations for FY 2026-2027 as contained in the original bill.

<u>Courts and Programs</u>	<u>Existing Operating Budget</u> <u>FY 2025-2026</u>	<u>Appropriation Request</u> <u>FY 2026-2027</u>
<u>By Expenditure:</u>		
Supreme Court	\$ 96,674,562	\$ 102,492,829
Courts of Appeal	\$ 52,876,409	\$ 62,750,266
District Courts	\$ 55,109,825	\$ 59,581,183
Other Courts (statutory)	\$ 3,601,525	\$ 3,929,511
Other Programs (non-statutory)	\$ 829,008	\$ 894,206
Reduction	\$ 0	\$ (20,556,666)
Addition	\$ 0	\$ 18,268,012
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 209,091,329</u>	<u>\$ 227,359,341</u>
<u>By Means of Finance:</u>		
Total General Fund (Direct)	\$ 187,855,555	\$ 208,412,221
Reduction General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ (20,556,666)
Additional General Fund (Direct)	\$ 0	\$ 18,268,012
Total Interagency Transfers	\$ 9,392,850	\$ 9,392,850
Total Statutory Dedications	\$ 11,842,924	\$ 11,842,924
Total Funding	<u>\$ 209,091,329</u>	<u>\$ 227,359,341</u>

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)]

Abstract: Appropriates funds for FY 2026-2027 for expenses of the Louisiana Judiciary, including the supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, Criminal Court of Orleans Parish, juvenile and family courts, and other courts.

Appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government with total funding of \$229,647,995 from the following sources: \$208,412,221 State General Fund (Direct); \$9,392,850 Interagency Transfers; \$11,842,924 Statutory Dedications out of the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund and the Trial Court Case Management Fund.

Reduces State General Fund (Direct) by (\$20,556,666).

Increases State General Fund (Direct) by \$18,268,012 for the following:

1. \$5,031,000 for FINS;
2. \$6,483,096 for staff pay plan adjustment; and
3. \$6,753,916 for salary increases for justices and judges.

Net total of State General Fund (Direct): \$206,123,567.

Funding for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government is provided as follows:

	<u>FY 26 EOB</u>	<u>FY 27 REC</u>
Louisiana Supreme Court	\$ 96,674,562	\$ 102,492,829
Courts of Appeal	\$ 52,876,409	\$ 62,750,266
District Courts	\$ 47,307,063	\$ 51,595,075
Criminal District Court, Parish of Orleans	\$ 4,944,670	\$ 5,061,083
Juvenile and Family Courts	\$ 2,858,092	\$ 2,925,025
Other Courts (Required by Statute)	\$ 3,601,525	\$ 3,929,511
Other Programs	\$ 829,008	\$ 894,206
Reduction (SGF)	\$ 0	\$ (20,556,666)
Addition (SGF)	\$ 0	\$ 18,268,012
Total Funding	<u>\$ 209,091,329</u>	<u>\$ 227,359,341</u>

Effective July 1, 2026.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Make a technical change.