
DIGEST

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HB 597 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Provides for the annual raises of judges in the state of La.

Present law provides for the Judicial Compensation Commission (commission) charged with the duty of studying judges' salaries and making recommendations to the legislature.

Present law requires the commission to submit its recommendations concerning judges' salaries to the legislature 60 days prior to the commencement of any regular session of the legislature in an even-numbered year and permits a report to be submitted every two years thereafter at any regular session of the legislature in an even-numbered year.

Present law authorizes the legislature to adopt by concurrent resolution the same recommendations contained in the most recent report of the commission at a regular session convened in an odd-numbered year or at any extraordinary session if the recommendations are included within the object of that session.

Proposed law deletes present law and requires salaries of judges to be determined by the Dept. of the Treasury each year after Feb. 1st by determining the average of a five-year rolling index of the consumer price index.

Proposed law prohibits the increase from exceeding the five-year rolling average for percentage increases in average annual pay for full-time state classified employees.

Proposed law provides that the salary increases will only occur if approved by the La. Supreme Court and the La. Judicial Budgetary Control Bd. Further provides that a salary increase will be suspended in any year if insufficient funds are available to fund the salary increase.

Effective July 1, 2028.

(Amends Chapter 1-B(Heading) of Title 13 of the La. Revised Statutes; Adds R.S. 13:41; Repeals R.S. 13:42-50)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide for an effective date of July 1, 2028.