

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 620

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY, BARRAS, BROADWATER, FOIL, JACKSON,  
JOHNSON, LEGER, AND MAGEE AND SENATORS ALARIO AND LAFLEUR

APPROPRIATIONS: Appropriates funds for the expenses of the judiciary for Fiscal Year  
2017-2018

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; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1.A. The sum of One Hundred Eighty-Seven Million Three Hundred Ninety-  
7 Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Nine No/100 (\$187,394,369.00) Dollars, or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of the judiciary,  
9 including the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, the District Courts, the Criminal District  
10 Court of Orleans Parish, and of the other courts.

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

12 **03-8170 SUPREME COURT**

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

25 **Mission Statement:** *The mission of the Supreme Court of Louisiana is to protect and*  
26 *promote the rule of law, to ensure public trust, to use public resources efficiently, to*  
27 *ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of both the bench*  
28 *and the bar, and to ensure the proper administration and performance of all courts*  
29 *under its authority.*

**Goal:** To protect the rule of law.

**Objective:** To provide a reasonable opportunity for litigants to seek review in the Supreme Court of decisions made by lower tribunals.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Total Filings	2,716	2,365	2,283
Total Appeals Filed	12	6	9
Total Writs Filed	2,496	2,172	2,092
Total Dispositions Rendered	2,592	2,486	2,142

**Goal:** To promote the rule of law.

**Objective:** To resolve cases in a timely manner.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of noncriminal case applications acted on within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	91.8%	97.1%	94.1%
Percentage of criminal case applications acted on within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	30.7%	36.1%	48.7%
Percentage of pro se post conviction applications acted on within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	2.1%	3%	26%
Percentage of bar disciplinary filings acted upon within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	95.2%	97%	93.6%
Percentage of opinions rendered within Supreme Court standard of 84 days from argument	81.5%	75.8%	66.7%

**Goal:** To ensure the public trust.

**Objective:** To facilitate public access to Supreme Court decisions.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of written opinions available to the public within 5 days of decision	100%	100%	100%

**Objective:** To inform the public of operations and activities.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Number of outreach programs	58	100	60
Number of media releases on court decisions	64	66	78
Number of media releases on other matters	25	17	24
Number of recipients of releases on court decisions	1,485	1,632	1,775
Number of recipients of releases on other matters	3,633	4,700	6,010

**Objective:** To ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bench.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Average number of hours acquired through continuing legal education per judge	33.59	34.25	30.08
Number of complaints filed against judges and justices of the peace	495	529	545
Number of complaints against judges and justices of the peace resolved or disposed of in the calendar year	477	601	582

**Objective:** To ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bar.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Average number of hours acquired through continuing legal education per lawyer	14.92	15.12	15.08
Number of complaints filed against lawyers	3,040	2,950	2,922
Number of complaints filed against lawyers resolved or disposed of in calendar year	3,140	3,046	2,673

1 Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct):

2 01 Salaries of one (1) Chief Justice and six (6)  
3 Associate Justices of the Supreme Court,  
4 as provided by R.S. 13:102 \$ 1,125,128

5 02 Salaries and other expenses of the  
6 Supreme Court Proper and salary of  
7 the Crier of the Supreme Court \$ 10,654,654

8 03 Expenses of Judicial Administrator's  
9 Office and of the Judiciary Commission  
10 provided for in Article V, Section  
11 25 of the Constitution of Louisiana and  
12 under the provisions of R.S. 13:32 et seq.

13 A. Expenses of Judicial Administrator's Office \$ 5,278,486

14 **Program Description:** *The Judicial Administrator's Office assists the Supreme Court in the*  
15 *administration of the state court system. It staffs the Judicial Council and the Judiciary Commission of*  
16 *Louisiana. Through the Judicial Council, it performs studies and makes recommendations for the creation*  
17 *of new judgeships and for improving the administration of justice. The Judicial Administrator's Office*  
18 *provides payroll and other fiscal services to the Judiciary, including the administration of a judicial*  
19 *retirement system; support for the Supreme Court and Appellate Court human resource system;*  
20 *technological services to courts; and, manages the Trial Court Case Management Information System.*  
21 *The Judicial Administrator's Office also manages the ad hoc judgeship system, monitors cases under*  
22 *advisement, provides outreach services to state and local courts, staffs the Committee on Judicial Ethics,*  
23 *and performs numerous legal services for the Supreme Court and the Judiciary.*

24 B. Expenses of Judiciary Commission \$ 2,068,854

25 **Program Description:** *The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana is a constitutional body established under*  
26 *Article V, Section 25 of the Constitution of 1974 to accept, screen, investigate, and prosecute complaints*  
27 *of judicial misconduct. As part of its authority, it may recommend to the Supreme Court the censure,*  
28 *suspension, removal from office, or involuntary retirement of any judge for ethical misconduct.*

29 C. Court Reporters; Statistical Reporting Systems \$ 420,020

30 D. Dues to National Center for State Courts \$ 158,650

31 04 Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board,  
32 as per Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XIX \$ 3,000

33 05 Compensation and expenses of retired  
34 judges assigned under Article V,  
35 Section 5(A) of the Constitution of  
36 Louisiana, be it more or less estimated at \$ 1,416,000

37 06 Law Library of Louisiana for salaries,  
38 services, supplies, maintenance, repairs,  
39 and equipment \$ 2,060,337

40 **Program Description:** *The Law Library of Louisiana serves the legal information needs of the state*  
41 *judiciary, and is open to members of the bar and public.*

42 07 Salaries and expenses of transferred  
43 judges assigned under Article V,  
44 Section 5(A) of the Constitution,  
45 be it more or less estimated as \$ 146,663

46 08 Retirement pay for services rendered by  
47 justices and judges of all courts, as  
48 provided by R.S. 11:1358 and  
49 R.S. 13:103 \$ 1,365,669

1	09	Pensions for widows of justices and	
2		judges of all courts, as provided by	
3		R.S. 11:1371 and R.S. 11:1381, be it	
4		more or less estimated at	\$ 1,469,984
5	10	Judicial College	\$ 303,725
6	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Judicial College was established by order of the Supreme Court in 1976 to</i>		
7	<i>provide continuing legal education to Louisiana judges.</i>		
8	11	State contribution to judicial	
9		retirement provided for in Article V,	
10		Section 23 of the Constitution and	
11		R.S. 11:551 et seq., be it more or	
12		less estimated at	\$ 19,013,380
13	12	Civil commitment matters as	
14		required by R.S. 28:54	\$ 204,000
15	13	Paul M. Hebert Law Center for the expenses	
16		of storage of appellate court records	\$ 60,000
17	14	Funding for statewide operations of the	
18		Louisiana Protective Order Registry	
19		(R.S. 46:2136.2) under the Case	
20		Management Information System	\$ 1,368,548
21	15	Information Technology	\$ 1,104,532
22	16	Payable out of the State General Fund for the	
23		expenses associated with the operation of the	
24		Families in Need of Services Program (FINS)	\$ 2,354,780
25	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The mission of the FINS Assistance Program is to assist local FINS processes by</i>		
26	<i>developing and implementing a needs-based allocation formula; developing, implementing, and mandating</i>		
27	<i>the use of a uniform data system for tracking, managing, and reporting FINS informal cases; developing</i>		
28	<i>and mandating the use of programmatic standards; developing, implementing, and reporting performance</i>		
29	<i>indicators and measures; requiring and monitoring periodic fiscal reports and financial accountability;</i>		
30	<i>and, generally supervising and assisting local FINS processes in other ways.</i>		
31	17	Drug court maintenance and enhancement	\$ 11,745,514
32	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>Drug treatment courts, authorized in 1997 by R.S. 13:5301 through R.S. 13:5304,</i>		
33	<i>provided integrated substance abuse treatment, sanctions, and incentives with case processing to place</i>		
34	<i>low-level, nonviolent drug-involved defendants in community-based, judicially supervised rehabilitation</i>		
35	<i>programs. Clients are regularly tested and monitored for compliance with educational, employment, and</i>		
36	<i>treatment requirements set by the court.</i>		
37	18	Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$ 2,965,884
38	<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The purpose of the CASA Assistance Program is to promote timely placement of</i>		
39	<i>children in need of care in permanent, safe and stable homes, in accordance with the provisions of</i>		
40	<i>Children's Code articles 424-426. Services are provided through local CASA programs which recruit,</i>		
41	<i>screen, train and supervise community advocates. Upon appointment by the trial judge, qualified</i>		
42	<i>advocates serve children by providing independent factual information to the judge, advocating for the best</i>		
43	<i>interest of the children, monitoring cases to which they have been assigned, and advising and assisting the</i>		
44	<i>judge in the determination of the best interest of the children involved.</i>		
45	TOTAL - GENERAL FUND		<u>\$ 65,287,808</u>
46	19	Payable out of the State General Fund	
47		from Statutory Dedications, Judges'	
48		Supplemental Compensation Fund,	
49		R. S. 13:10.3, be it more or less	
50		estimated at	\$ 6,223,724

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

20 Payable out of the State General Fund  
from Statutory Dedications, Trial Court  
Case Management Information Fund, for  
the Case Management Information System,  
Article 887 (F) of the Code of Criminal  
Procedure, be it more or less estimated at \$ 4,017,201

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

TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND  
BY STATUTORY DEDICATIONS \$ 10,240,925

21 Drug court maintenance and enhancement, payable  
out of the State General Fund through Interagency  
Transfers from the Department of Children and  
Family Services \$ 5,400,000

22 Court Appointed Special Advocates, payable out of  
the State General Fund through Interagency Transfers  
from the Department of Children and Family  
Services \$ 3,992,850

TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND  
THROUGH INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS \$ 9,392,850

TOTAL SUPREME COURT \$ 84,921,583

**03-8171 COURTS OF APPEAL**

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

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the appellate courts of Louisiana is to provide meaningful access to all who seek review under the Courts' appellate and supervisory jurisdiction granted by the Louisiana Constitution while protecting and promoting the rule of law, preserving the public trust, and using public resources efficiently.*

**Goal:** To protect the rule of law.

**Objective:** To provide a reasonable opportunity for multi-judge review of decisions made by lower tribunals.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Total appeals filed	2,050	2,053	1,783
Total writs filed	4,325	4,048	3,670
Total dispositions rendered	5,741	5,019	4,761

**Goal:** To promote the rule of law.

1	<b>Objective:</b> To resolve cases expeditiously.			
2	<b>General Performance Information:</b>			
3		<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
4	<i>Average number of days from lodging of the</i>			
5	<i>appeal to argument:</i>			
6	<i>Time Standard = no more than 175 days.</i>			
7	<i>Criminal cases</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>162</i>
8	<i>Civil Cases</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>155</i>
9	<i>Median number of days for all cases</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>158</i>

10	<i>Average number of days from argument to</i>			
11	<i>rendering of the opinion:</i>			
12	<i>Time Standard = no more than 70 days.</i>			
13	<i>Criminal cases</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>43</i>
14	<i>Civil cases</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>42</i>
15	<i>Median number of days for all cases</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>43</i>
16	<b>Goal:</b> To preserve public trust.			

17	<b>Objective:</b> To facilitate public access to the decisions of the courts of appeal.			
18	<b>General Performance Information:</b>			
19		<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
20	<i>Percentage of written opinions available</i>			
21	<i>to the public within 5 days of decision</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

22 Payable out of the State General Fund:

23	01	Salaries of five (5) Chief Judges	
24		and forty-eight (48) Judges of	
25		the Courts of Appeal, R.S. 13:311	\$ 7,912,546
26	02	Salaries and expenses of operation and	
27		maintenance of the Court of Appeal,	
28		First Circuit	\$ 10,469,867
29	03	Salaries and expenses of operation and	
30		maintenance of the Court of Appeal,	
31		Second Circuit	\$ 5,868,157
32	04	Salaries and expenses of operation and	
33		maintenance of the Court of Appeal,	
34		Third Circuit	\$ 8,930,244
35	05	Salaries and expenses of operation and	
36		maintenance of the Court of Appeal,	
37		Fourth Circuit	\$ 8,347,759
38	06	Salaries and expenses of operation and	
39		maintenance of the Court of Appeal,	
40		Fifth Circuit	\$ 6,022,679
41	TOTAL COURTS OF APPEAL		<u>\$ 47,551,252</u>

42 **03-8172 DISTRICT COURTS**

43 **Program Description:** *There are forty-one district courts in Louisiana that have*  
44 *general jurisdiction over all matters within their territorial limits, except in those*  
45 *judicial districts (the 1st, the 19th, and the 24th Judicial Districts) where family and*  
46 *juvenile courts have exclusive jurisdiction over certain types of cases and except in*  
47 *Orleans Parish where there are separate courts exercising civil, criminal, and juvenile*  
48 *jurisdictions, respectively. In certain cases, the forty-one general jurisdiction courts*  
49 *have concurrent jurisdiction with justices of the peace and parish courts. The district*  
50 *courts generally have appellate jurisdiction of criminal cases tried by city, parish,*  
51 *municipal, traffic, and mayors' courts, except in certain cases. The district courts also*  
52 *have appellate jurisdiction over justices of the peace in parishes where no parish courts*  
53 *exist. The Civil District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction of all civil cases in*  
54 *that parish. The Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish has jurisdiction over all*

*criminal cases in the parish. It also has general supervisory jurisdiction over the municipal and traffic courts in Orleans Parish. The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish has exclusive jurisdiction of many domestic cases in the parish. The four juvenile courts located in Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans parishes have exclusive jurisdiction of juvenile cases in their respective parishes.*

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the trial courts of Louisiana is to provide access to justice, to meet all responsibilities in a timely and expeditious manner, to provide equality, fairness, and integrity in their proceedings, to maintain judicial independence and accountability, and to reach a fair and just result by adherence to the procedural and substantive law, thereby instilling trust and confidence in the public.*

**Goal:** To establish a more open and accessible system of justice.

**Objective:** To encourage responsible parties to make court facilities safe, accessible, and convenient.

<b>General Performance Information:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<i>Percentage of surveyed district court chief judges indicating actions taken in FY 2015-2016 to improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)</i>	97.9%	93.8%	81.3%

**Objective:** To encourage all responsible public bodies and public officers to make the costs of access to the trial court's proceedings and records - whether measured in terms of money, time, or the procedures that must be followed - reasonable, fair, and affordable.

<b>General Performance Information:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<i>Percentage of surveyed district court chief judges indicating actions taken in FY 2015-2016 to assist self-represented litigants</i>	97.9%	97.9%	85.4%

**Goal:** To meet all responsibilities to everyone affected by the court and its activities in a timely and expeditious manner.

**Objective:** To encourage timely case management and processing.

<b>General Performance Information:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<i>Number of parishes reporting criminal disposition data to CMIS</i>	64	64	64
<i>Percentage of parishes reporting criminal disposition data to CMIS</i>	100%	100%	100%
<i>Percentage of surveyed district court chief judges indicating that their courts had taken steps within FY 2015-2016 to reduce delays and improve the timeliness of case processing</i>	91.7%	97.9%	87.5%

**Objective:** To enhance jury service.

<b>General Performance Information:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<i>Percentage of surveyed district court chief judges indicating that their court had taken steps within FY 2015-2016 to make jury service more convenient or effective</i>	93%	100%	90.7%

**Goal:** To provide due process and equal protection of the law to all who have business before the court; and to demonstrate integrity in all procedures and decisions.

**Objective:** To recognize new conditions or emerging events and to adjust court operations as necessary.

<b>General Performance Information:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<i>Percentage of surveyed district court chief judges indicating actions taken in FY 2015-2016 to improve employee training and development</i>	95.8%	87.5%	85.4%

1 *Percentage of surveyed district court chief*  
 2 *judges indicating actions taken in*  
 3 *FY 2015-2016 to install or implement*  
 4 *technologies* 95.8% 100% 91.7%

5 **Goal:** To maintain judicial independence, while observing the principle of comity in  
 6 its governmental relations and accountability to the public.

7 **Objective:** To inform the community of the court's structure and function.

8 **General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
9			
10 <i>Percentage of surveyed district court chief</i>			
11 <i>judges indicating that their courts regularly</i>			
12 <i>provided public education and public</i>			
13 <i>outreach services in FY 2015-2016</i>	89.6%	97.9%	87.5%

14 Payable out of the State General Fund:

15	01	Salaries of one hundred ninety-one	
16		(191) District Judges as provided	
17		by R.S. 13:691	\$ 27,187,586
18	02	Office and travel expenses of District	
19		Judges as provided by R.S. 13:698 and	
20		R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$ 1,285,250
21	03	Salaries of fourteen (14) Judges of	
22		Civil District Court, Orleans Parish,	
23		as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$ 1,992,807
24	04	Expenses of Judges of Civil District	
25		Court, Parish of Orleans, for salaries	
26		of stenographers, clerks, law books,	
27		stationery, telephone, and like expenses	
28		as provided by R.S. 13:698	\$ 80,500
29	05	Salaries of two (2) Court Reporters	
30		of the Twentieth Judicial District Court,	
31		including retirement contributions, as	
32		provided by R.S. 13:966.1	\$ 117,697
33	06	Clerk of Civil District Court, Orleans	
34		Parish, as provided by R.S. 13:1212(A)	\$ 10,000
35	07	State share of Group, Workers'	
36		Compensation, General Liability,	
37		and Property Insurance Premiums	
38		as provided by R.S.42:851	\$ 7,471,735
39	08	Salaries of two (2) commissioners of	
40		the Nineteenth Judicial District and	
41		one (1) commissioner of the Fifteenth	
42		Judicial District as provided by	
43		R.S. 13:712 and R.S. 13:715,	
44		respectively	\$ 569,959
45	09	Office expenses for the Judicial	
46		Expense Fund of the Nineteenth Judicial	
47		District Court as provided by	
48		R.S. 13:711-713	\$ 470,893



1	10	Office expenses for the Judicial	
2		Expense Fund of the Fifteenth	
3		Judicial District Court as provided	
4		by R.S. 13:714-716	\$ 304,827
5	11	Law Clerk, Twentieth Judicial District	
6		Court as provided by Act 747 of 1977	\$ 51,118
7	12	For the expenses of the Judicial Expense	
8		Fund, Tenth Judicial District Court as	
9		provided by Act 57 of 2006	<u>\$ 35,000</u>
10		SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 39,577,372</u>
11	13	Criminal Court - Parish of Orleans	
12		<b>Program Description:</b> <i>The Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans has exclusive jurisdiction</i>	
13		<i>of the trial and punishment of all crimes, misdemeanors, and offenses committed within the parish of</i>	
14		<i>Orleans, if the jurisdiction is not vested by law in some other court. The court, through its magistrate and</i>	
15		<i>with assistance from its commissioners, has the power of committing magistrates in all felony charges and</i>	
16		<i>the power to hold preliminary examinations, with authority to bail or discharge, or to hold for trial, in all</i>	
17		<i>cases before the court. The court has appellate jurisdiction of all cases tried before the Municipal Court</i>	
18		<i>of New Orleans and the Traffic Court of New Orleans and has general supervisory jurisdiction over these</i>	
19		<i>courts.</i>	
20	A.	Salaries of thirteen (13) District Judges of	
21		Criminal Court, Orleans Parish as provided	
22		by R.S. 13:691	\$ 1,850,464
23	B.	Office expenses of Judges of Criminal Court,	
24		Orleans Parish as provided by R.S. 13:698	\$ 74,750
25	C.	State's share of group insurance for the personnel	
26		of Criminal Court as provided by R.S. 42:851	\$ 736,127
27	D.	Salaries of thirteen (13) minute clerks as provided	
28		by R.S. 13:1373.1	\$ 288,063
29	E.	Salaries of twenty-six (26) court reporters as	
30		provided by R.S. 13:1373.1	\$ 454,091
31	F.	Salaries of four (4) commissioners of Criminal	
32		Court, Orleans Parish, including related benefits	
33		as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$ 503,908
34	G.	Office and travel expenses of commissioners as	
35		provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$ 10,600
36	H.	Salaries of four (4) minute clerks, one for each	
37		commissioner as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$ 75,371
38	I.	Salaries of four (4) court reporters, one for each	
39		commissioner as provided by R.S. 13:1347	\$ 57,311
40	J.	Salaries of Judicial Administrator, and assistants,	
41		including related benefits	\$ 1,007,453
42	K.	Salaries of thirteen (13) law clerks	\$ 733,824
43	L.	Salaries of four (4) secretaries	\$ 212,661

1	M. Sanity Commissions	\$ 200,000
2	N. Board of Jury Commissioners	\$ 434,248
3	SUBTOTAL	\$ 6,638,871
4	14 Juvenile and Family Court Judges	
5	A. Salaries of fourteen (14) Juvenile Court	
6	Judges as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$ 1,992,807
7	B. Salaries of four (4) Family Court Judges	
8	as provided by R.S. 13:691	\$ 569,374
9	C. Office and travel expenses of Juvenile and Family	
10	Court Judges as provided by R.S. 13:698	
11	and R.S. 13:694, respectively	\$ 103,500
12	SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,665,681
13	TOTAL DISTRICT COURTS	\$ 48,881,924

**03-8173 OTHER COURTS - SALARIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES AS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

**Program Description:** *The category includes forty-seven city courts, one municipal court (New Orleans), one traffic court (New Orleans), and one parish court (Ascension Parish).*

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the city and parish courts of Louisiana is to provide access to justice, to meet all responsibilities in a timely and expeditious manner, to provide equality, fairness and integrity in their proceedings, to maintain judicial independence and accountability, and to reach a fair and just result by adherence to the procedural and substantive law, thereby instilling trust and confidence in the public.*

**Goal:** To establish a more open and accessible system of justice.

**Objective:** To encourage all responsible public bodies and public officers to make the costs of access to the court's proceedings and records - whether measured in terms of money, time, or the procedures that must be followed - reasonable, fair, and affordable.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of surveyed city/parish court chief judges indicating actions taken in FY 2015-2016 to assist pro se litigants	100%	96.2%	96.2%

**Goal:** To meet all responsibilities to everyone affected by the court and its activities in a timely and expeditious manner.

**Objective:** To encourage timely case management and processing.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of surveyed city/parish court chief judges indicating that their courts had taken steps within FY 2015-2016 to reduce delays and improve the timeliness of case processing	84.6%	88.5%	92.3%

**Goal:** To maintain judicial independence, while observing the principle of comity in its governmental relations and accountability to the public.

**Objective:** To inform the community of the court's structure and function.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of surveyed city/parish court chief judges indicating that their courts regularly provided public education and public outreach services in FY 2015-2016	92.3%	92.3%	88.5%

**Objective:** To recognize new conditions or emerging events and to adjust court operations as necessary.

**General Performance Information:**

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of surveyed city/parish court chief judges indicating actions taken in FY 2015-2016 to improve employee training and development	94.2%	98.1%	96.2%
Percentage of surveyed city/parish court chief judges indicating actions taken in FY 2015-2016 to install or implement technologies	92.3%	96.2%	90.4%

Payable out of the State General Fund:

01	Salaries of sixty (60) City Court Judges as provided by R.S. 13:1875	\$ 2,757,560
02	Salaries of four (4) Municipal, four (4) Traffic and one (1) Parish Court Judges as provided by R.S. 13:2492, 13:2501.1, and 13:2563.5, respectively	\$ 444,777
TOTAL OTHER COURTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE		\$ 3,202,337

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

Payable out of the State General Fund:

01	Orleans Parish Juvenile Protective Care Monitoring Program	\$ 614,938
<b>Program Description:</b> The program tracks and maintains child abuse and neglect cases in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. It also provides assistance in support of the Families in Need of Services Program.		
02	Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Reporters	\$ 88,244
03	For the expenses of the Judges' Assistance Program	\$ 63,238
<b>Program Description:</b> The Judges' Assistance Program provides counseling and other assistance to judges with substance abuse problems.		
TOTAL OTHER COURTS NOT REQUIRED BY STATUTE		\$ 766,420

1   **03-8175   NON-JUDICIAL STATE EXPENSES**

2   Payable out of the State General Fund:

3       01       Legal representation of children in child protection cases       \$   2,070,853

4       **Program Description:** *As recommended by the Task Force on Legal representation*  
5       *in Child Protection Cases and at the request of the Division of Administration, in*  
6       *order to advance the administration of justice, the Supreme Court administers*  
7       *funding to provide qualified legal representation for children in child protection*  
8       *cases as required to fulfill the state's statutory responsibility.*

9   TOTAL NON-JUDICIAL STATE EXPENSES                               \$   2,070,853

10       Section 2. The appropriations, and the allocations of such appropriations, from the State  
11   General Fund (Direct) contained in Section 1 of this Act shall be reduced by a total amount  
12   of Twenty Million Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three and No/100  
13   (\$20,017,923.00) Dollars, pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control  
14   Board or as approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

15       Section 3.A. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or her duly authorized and  
16   appointed agent, shall warrant the state treasurer for the allocations herein provided, or for  
17   so much thereof as may be necessary. The aforesaid warrant shall be paid out of the state  
18   general fund, and the state treasurer shall pay said warrant by preference over all other  
19   warrants, except warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state and warrants  
20   for expenses of the legislature, which shall be concurrent with the warrant provided by this  
21   Act.

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

24       C. Any funds herein allocated to the judiciary, any portion of the funds previously  
25   appropriated to the judiciary, other revenue of the judiciary or its agencies, and interest  
26   earnings are hereby appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the judiciary;  
27   however, all funds remaining unexpended or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state  
28   general fund on or before September 1, 2018.

29       D. For Fiscal Year 2017-2018, any surpluses occurring in the appropriations made in  
30   this Act may be transferred from one agency or line-item to another during the fiscal year  
31   in accordance with the rules of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, or as approved by the  
32   Supreme Court.

1       E. The adjustment to be made in the salaries of judicial employees and the number of  
2 authorized positions of the judiciary shall be as decided by the judicial agency affected,  
3 subject to the approval of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board or as approved by the  
4 Supreme Court.

5       F. The program descriptions, general performance information and indicators,  
6 objectives, goals, and mission statements contained in this Act are not part of the law and  
7 are not enacted into law by virtue of their inclusion in this Act. The missions, goals, and  
8 objectives contained in the Act are derived from performance standards established by  
9 Section 10 of Part G General Administrative Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

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

19       Section 4. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017; if vetoed by the  
20 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on  
July 1, 2017, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

In accordance with R.S. 39:51(D), the following represents a comparative statement for  
each Court and program. The operating budget for FY 2016-2017 is compared to the  
appropriations for FY 2017-2018 as contained in the original bill.

Operating Budget		Appropriation Request
<u>Courts and Programs</u>	<u>FY 2016-2017</u>	<u>FY 2017-2018</u>
Supreme Court		
Total Supreme Court	\$ 63,673,627	\$ 74,680,658

Courts of Appeal		
Total Courts of Appeal	\$ 45,101,587	\$ 47,551,252
District Courts		
Total District Courts	\$ 46,311,638	\$ 48,881,924
Other Courts		
Total Other Courts	\$ 3,132,025	\$ 3,202,337
Other Programs		
Total Other Programs	\$ 634,064	\$ 766,420
Non-Judicial State Expenses		
Total State Expenses	<u>\$ 2,070,853</u>	<u>\$ 2,070,853</u>
Total State General Fund and Interagency Transfer		
All Line Items	<u>\$160,923,794</u>	<u>\$ 177,153,444</u>
Total Statutory Dedications	<u>\$ 10,407,485</u>	<u>\$ 10,240,925</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$171,331,279</u>	<u>\$ 187,394,369</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)]

HB 620 Reengrossed                      2017 Regular Session                      Henry

**Abstract:** Appropriates funds for FY 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government with total funding of \$171,164,719 from the following sources: \$151,530,944 out of the State General Fund (Direct); \$9,392,850 through interagency transfers from the Dept. of Children and Family Services; and, \$10,240,925 from statutory dedications out of the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund and the Trial Court Case Management Fund.

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

(1)	Louisiana Supreme Court	\$84,921,583
(2)	Courts of Appeal	47,551,252
(3)	District Courts	39,577,372
(4)	Criminal Court, Parish of Orleans	6,638,871
(5)	Juvenile and Family Courts	2,665,681
(6)	Other Courts (Required by Statute)	3,202,337

(7)	Other Courts (Not Required by Statute)	766,420
(8)	Non-Judicial State Expenses	<u>2,070,853</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$187,394,369</u>

Requires that the appropriations out of the State General Fund (Direct) contained in this Act be reduced by a total amount of \$16,229,650, pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board or as approved by the La. Supreme Court.

Effective July 1, 2017.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide for a change in means of financing to decrease State General Fund (Direct) and increase Interagency Transfers from the Dept. of Children and Family Services by \$9,392,850 for drug court maintenance and enhancement and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
2. Add requirement that appropriations contained in this Act be reduced by a total amount of \$20,017,923 pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board or as approved by the La. Supreme Court.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change the amount of reduction to the appropriations contained in this Act from \$20,017,923 to \$16,229,650, resulting in an increase to the appropriation of \$3,788,273.