



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 295** HLS 19RS 851  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b> March 29, 2019 2:21 PM               | <b>Author:</b> HILL         |
| <b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Fourteenth Judicial District   | <b>Analyst:</b> Philip Fach |
| <b>Subject:</b> Establishes a Magistrate Position |                             |

COURTS/MAGISTRATES OR +\$165,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides for a magistrate judge in the 14th JDC

**Purpose of Bill:** This bill provides for an elected magistrate judge for the Fourteenth Judicial District Court (14th JDC) to take office on January 1, 2021. This bill also provides election requirements, prohibition on practicing law, compensation of the magistrate and payment of support services and personnel, and restrictions on matters that the magistrate can hear and preside over.

| <b>EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>2019-20</b> | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| State Gen. Fd.      | \$0            | \$82,000       | \$165,000      | \$165,000      | \$165,000      | <b>\$577,000</b>     |
| Agy. Self-Gen.      | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Ded./Other          | \$0            | \$5,800        | \$11,600       | \$11,600       | \$11,600       | <b>\$40,600</b>      |
| Federal Funds       | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Local Funds         | <u>\$0</u>     | SEE BELOW      | SEE BELOW      | SEE BELOW      | SEE BELOW      | <b>\$0</b>           |
| <b>Annual Total</b> | <b>\$0</b>     |                |                |                |                | <b>\$0</b>           |

  

| <b>REVENUES</b>     | <b>2019-20</b> | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| State Gen. Fd.      | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Agy. Self-Gen.      | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Ded./Other          | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Federal Funds       | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            | <b>\$0</b>           |
| Local Funds         | <u>\$0</u>     | <u>\$0</u>     | <u>\$0</u>     | <u>\$0</u>     | <u>\$0</u>     | <b>\$0</b>           |
| <b>Annual Total</b> | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>           |

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**This measure may increase State General Fund and Statutorily Dedicated expenditures starting in January of 2021.** An official with the Louisiana Supreme Court indicated that the state will pay the magistrate's salary and benefits using state general fund and statutorily dedicated money. This official projects that total salary and benefits will be \$87,800 in 2021 (\$82,000 state general fund and \$5,800 statutorily dedicated) for half of a year and \$176,600 annually thereafter (\$165,000 state general fund and \$11,600 statutorily dedicated).

**The overall impact on Local Fund expenditures is indeterminable at this time.** An official with the 14th JDC indicated that the magistrate (which will be paid using state general fund and statutorily dedicated money) will replace two ad-hoc judges that are currently compensated \$60,000 per year using local fund money. In addition, this official indicated that the only additional support service/staff that will be needed is a judicial secretary, which may be compensated up to \$70,200 annually using local fund money. The official also informed us that they have plans to pay a lesser amount to this position based on expected workload.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

**There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.**

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}

**Michael G. Battle**  
 Manager, Advisory Services