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## DIGEST

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HB 386 Original

2021 Regular Session

Farnum

**Abstract:** Provides for the appointment of special masters in parishes included in a major disaster declaration.

Present law provides the authority and procedure for the appointment, duties, powers, and compensation of a special master.

Proposed law provides for the appointment of one or more special masters for all causes of action related to first-party insurance property damage claims in a parish declared by the president of the United States to be subject to a major disaster declaration and certified for individual assistance under federal law.

Proposed law provides for the appointment, duties, or compensation of the special master or masters in any manner directed by the court. Provides that the court shall allow a party an opportunity to file a motion to opt out of proceedings before the special master upon a showing of good cause.

Proposed law provides for the possibility of mandatory mediation with the goal of expedited dispute resolution using qualified neutral mediators appointed and compensated in the manner directed by the court.

(Adds R.S. 13:4165(F))