

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 1252

2026 Regular Session

Deshotel

COURTS: Provides relative to the city court system in Avoyelles Parish

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes technical changes relative to the statutory placement of proposed law.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for one city court judge in Marksville and one city court judge in Bunkie. Both city court judgeships are located in Avoyelles Parish.

Proposed law retains present law but expands the geographical jurisdiction of the Marksville city court to include all of wards one, two, three, four, five, six and eleven of Avoyelles Parish. Further extends the geographical jurisdiction of the Bunkie city court to include wards seven, eight, nine and ten of Avoyelles Parish.

Proposed law requires the city judge and marshal of Bunkie to be elected by the electors of wards seven, eight, nine, and ten of Avoyelles Parish at the general election for Representatives in Congress every six years.

Proposed law requires the city judge and marshal of Marksville to be elected by the electors of wards one, two, three, four, five, six, and eleven of Avoyelles Parish at the general election for Representatives in Congress every six years.

Proposed law provides for both city courts to have a small claims division and concurrent jurisdiction with the 12th Judicial District Court in all criminal misdemeanor cases, civil cases with disputes less than \$50,000, and juvenile matters.

Present law provides for the payment of salaries for a marshal, clerk of court, and deputy clerks, as well as expenses for the operation and maintenance of the courtroom and offices of the city court to be paid by the town of Marksville and the parish of Avoyelles. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the justice of the peace courts and constable courts in wards one, three, four, five, six and eleven to work in conjunction with the city court in Marksville. Further provides that there is no justice of the peace or mayor's court in ward two.

Present law provides for the collection and deposit of fines, forfeitures, penalties, fees, and costs in criminal and civil matters by the city judge in Marksville.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the city judge may seek grants or engage in a study for the implementation of an online method of payment of fines and for virtual court appearances. Permits the use of proceeds from the court's criminal fund upon the approval of the city and parish governing authorities.

Present law authorizes the city judge to impose a fine in criminal matters of \$8. Proposed law increases the fine in present law from \$8 to \$20.

Present law authorizes the city judge to impose a fine in civil matters not to exceed \$10. Proposed law increases the fine in present law from \$10 to \$20 and provides for exceptions.

(Amends R.S. 13:1952(intro. para.) and (7), 2488.51(A)-(C), 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59; Adds R.S. 13:2488.51(F) and (G))