
DIGEST

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HB 538 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Dwight

Abstract: Establishes the magistrate judge position in the Fourteenth Judicial District Court and provides for duties, salary, and election of the magistrate judge.

Proposed law provides for the creation of the magistrate judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District Court, to be elected from election sections one and three combined. The salary of this position shall be equal to 75% of the salary paid to judges of the Fourteenth Judicial District Court. The magistrate judge will have jurisdiction over criminal matters that do not include jury trials or felony guilty pleas. Additionally, the magistrate judge will have jurisdiction over all specialty or problem solving courts.

Proposed law provides that the elected term of the magistrate judge begins on Jan. 1, 2021. The magistrate judge will serve for a term of 6 years, the position shall be full-time, and the magistrate judge will not be able to practice law.

(Adds R.S. 13:589)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change the title of the office from magistrate to magistrate judge.
2. Provide that the elected term shall start Jan. 1, 2021, and will allow the magistrate judge to serve for 6 years. Add that the position will be full-time and the magistrate judge will not be able to practice law.
3. Authorize the magistrate judge to have jurisdiction over specialty courts created after the effective date of proposed law.

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

1. Eliminate duplicative language.