

SENATE BILL NO. 123

BY SENATOR PERRY

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1878, relative to city courts; to provide for courts with two  
3 divisions; to provide for division declaration; to provide for determining the chief  
4 judge; to provide for the duties of the chief judge; to provide for the term of the chief  
5 judge; to provide for technical changes; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:1878 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1878. ~~Courts having more than one division; declaration~~ **Declaration** of  
9 candidates for office; ~~seniority~~ **determination of chief judge**

10 **A.** Where a city court is composed of ~~two or more~~ **than two** divisions, a  
11 candidate for nomination and election to the office of judge of the city court, at the  
12 time of filing his declaration as a candidate, shall designate the division of the court  
13 for which he is a candidate. The judge oldest in point of continuous service shall be  
14 the ~~presiding~~ **chief** judge, except that when they have served continuously the same  
15 length of time, the judge oldest in years shall be the ~~presiding~~ **chief** judge.

16 **B.(1) Where a city court is composed of two divisions, a candidate for**  
17 **nomination and election to the office of judge of the city court, at the time of**  
18 **filing his declaration as a candidate, shall designate the division of the court for**  
19 **which he is a candidate.**

20 **(2) The city court shall have a chief judge.**

21 **(a) If not selected by agreement, the chief judge shall be the judge having**  
22 **the longest continuous service as a judge of that city court or, if both are equal**  
23 **in such service, then the judge having the longest continuous service as a judge**  
24 **regardless of the court. In the event both judges are new or have equal**  
25 **continuous service as a judge, then the chief judge shall be the judge having the**  
26 **most years as a licensed attorney in the state of Louisiana or, if both have the**  
27 **same number of years, the judge oldest in age.**

1                   **(b) The chief judge shall preside over meetings en banc, appoint**  
2                   **committees, certify all documents on behalf of the court en banc, prepare the**  
3                   **agenda for en banc meetings, represent the court in ceremonial functions,**  
4                   **oversee all financial planning and reporting, perform duties as delegated by the**  
5                   **court en banc, and exercise supervision of administrative functions including**  
6                   **but not limited to the appointment of the clerk of court, deputy clerks of court,**  
7                   **and court reporters.**

8                   **(c) The chief judge shall remain in such position until his resignation or**  
9                   **retirement. The court en banc may designate a procedure by local rule for the**  
10                  **other judge of the city court to act as temporary chief judge if the chief judge**  
11                  **is unable to perform his duties due to physical or medical incapacity.**

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_