

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 271

BY REPRESENTATIVE NELSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 791(C), relative to trial by jury;  
3 to provide relative to sequestration of jurors and jury; to provide relative to  
4 sequestration of jurors in noncapital cases; to provide relative to separation without  
5 sequestration; to provide relative to instructions by the court; and to provide for  
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 791(C) is hereby amended and  
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 Art. 791. Sequestration of jurors and jury

11 \* \* \*

12 C.(1) In noncapital cases, the jury shall be sequestered ~~after the court's~~  
13 ~~charge~~ during active deliberations and may be sequestered at any time upon order of  
14 the court.

15 (2) At any time after the court's charge, and after notice to the parties and  
16 affording the parties an opportunity to be heard on the record outside the presence  
17 of the jury, the court may declare the deliberations to be in recess and may then  
18 direct the jury to suspend its deliberations, to separate without sequestration, and to  
19 return for continued deliberations on the next day of operation of the court. Before  
20 each recess, the court shall admonish the jury as provided in Subparagraph (3) of this  
21 Paragraph and direct it to not resume its deliberations until all twelve jurors have  
22 reassembled in the designated place at the termination of the declared recess.

23 (3)(a) Upon the court's charge to suspend deliberations and to separate  
24 without sequestration, the court shall admonish the jury as follows:

1           (i) Deliberations shall be conducted only in the jury room when all jurors are  
2           present. All deliberations shall cease and shall not resume until all of the jurors have  
3           returned to the jury room.

4           (ii) During the recess, jurors shall not converse with any person about  
5           anything related to the case.

6           (iii) Jurors remain under obligation to not request, accept, agree to accept,  
7           or discuss with any person regarding the receiving or accepting of any payment or  
8           benefit in return for supplying information concerning the trial.

9           (iv) Jurors shall promptly report directly to the court any incident within  
10          their knowledge involving an attempt by any person to improperly influence any  
11          member of the jury.

12          (v) Jurors shall not visit or view the premises or place where the charged  
13          crime was allegedly committed or any other premises or place involved in the case.

14          (vi) Jurors shall not read, view, or listen to any accounts or discussions of the  
15          case reported by newspapers, television, radio, the internet, or any other news media  
16          outlet.

17          (vii) Jurors shall not attempt to research any fact, issue, or law related to the  
18          case, whether by discussion with others, by research in a library or on the internet,  
19          or by any other means or source.

20          (b) Upon the jurors returning from any recess, the court shall verify with  
21          each juror on the record that he followed the admonition.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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