

2024 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 5

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

COURTS. Provides for statewide districts for the Louisiana Supreme Court. (Items #3, 4, and 13)(2/3 - CA13s1(A))

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the supreme court; to provide for residency requirements; to provide for statewide election of justices; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§4. Supreme Court; Districts

Section 4. ~~The state shall be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each.~~ At least one justice shall reside in each supreme court district and each justice shall be elected by the electors of the state. The districts and the number of ~~judges~~ justices assigned to each on the effective date of this constitution are retained, subject to change by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to

1 the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5,
2 2024.

3 Section 3. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment, if approved by the
4 electors of the state, shall become effective January 1, 2025, and shall apply to all elections
5 for the office of supreme court justice occurring on and after that date.

6 Section 4. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election
7 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
8 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
9 follows:

10 Do you support an amendment to provide for the statewide election of
11 supreme court justices?
12 (Amends Article V, Section 4)

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 5 Original

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Seabaugh

Present constitution provides the supreme court to be comprised of seven justices. Provides that the state will be divided into at least six supreme court election districts, and that at least one judge shall be elected from each district. Provides that on the effective date of the constitution, the districts and the number of justices assigned to each district will be retained, but will be subject to change by a law that is enacted by a 2/3s vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed constitutional amendment removes the six election district minimum requirement and provides that beginning January 1, 2025, present law districts be retained as residency requirement and each justice be elected by a statewide vote. Also, retains present constitution requirement that a change in the districts or number of justices must be enacted by law by a 2/3s vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 2024.

Effective January 1, 2025, and applies to all elections for the office of supreme court justice occurring on and after that date.

(Amends Const. Art. V, Sec. 4)