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## DIGEST

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HB 599 Original

2024 Regular Session

Ventrella

**Abstract:** Requires state statutes or rules to be interpreted de novo in judicial review cases.

Present law provides that a person who is aggrieved by a final decision or order in an adjudication proceeding is entitled to judicial review.

Proposed law retains present law and prohibits a court, administrative judge, or hearing officer presiding over a contested case hearing or appeal from deferring to a state agency's interpretation of a state statute or rule and requires the court, administrative judge, or hearing officer to interpret the meaning of the statute or rule de novo. Further provides that in an action brought by or against a state agency, the court, administrative judge, or hearing officer, after applying all customary tools of interpretation, shall exercise any remaining doubt in favor of a reasonable interpretation that limits agency power and maximizes individual liberty.

Effective July 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 49:978.1(H))