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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Angela L. De Jean.

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DIGEST

SB 8 Original

2024 Third Extraordinary Session

Miller

Present law provides a member of the legislature and a legislative employee shall have preemptory grounds for continuance or extension of a criminal case, civil case, or administrative proceeding. Provides that the preemptory grounds for continuance or extension is available to and for the benefit of a member or legislative employee and may only be asserted or waived by the member or employee. Provides that such preemptory grounds are available if the presence, participation, or involvement of the member or employee is required in any capacity, including any pretrial or post-trial legal proceeding, during:

- (1) Any time between 30 days prior to the original call to order and 30 days following the adjournment sine die of any session of the legislature.
- (2) Any time between 30 days prior to convening and 30 days following adjournment sine die of any constitutional convention.
- (3) Any time when such person is engaged in activities, including travel, in connection with or ordered by the legislature, any legislative committee or subcommittee appointed by the president of the Senate or the speaker of the House of Representatives, any committee or commission appointed by the governor or other person authorized to make such appointments, or any constitutional convention or commission.

Proposed law provides that a member of the legislature or legislative employee shall be entitled to preemptory grounds for a continuance of any court or agency proceeding or the extension of any legal delay or deadline, if the presence, participation, or involvement of a member of the legislature or legislative employee, who is a party or an attorney for a party is required in any criminal or civil case, including any pretrial or post-trial proceeding, during any legislative session or constitutional convention. Provides that the preemptory grounds are available any time between 30 days before the convening of any session of the legislature or constitutional convention and 30 days after the adjournment sine die of any session of the legislature or constitutional convention.

Present law provides that a motion for legislative continuance or extension filed by a legislative employee shall be accompanied by an affidavit, verifying such employment or service, executed by the presiding officer or the clerk or secretary of the respective house. Provides that the motion for legislative continuance or extension shall be filed at no cost to a member, employee, or a client of a member or employee. Requires the filing no later than five calendar days prior to the hearing or proceeding to be continued. Provides special provisions for extraordinary sessions. Provides that the motion for a legislative continuance may be filed by electronic means such as facsimile transmission or electronic mail, or any other means authorized by law, provided that the mover shall provide all opposing counsel or parties with a copy of the motion, simultaneously with the transmission of the

motion to the court.

Proposed law provides that the motion for continuance shall be filed no later than five days prior to the proceeding to be continued at no cost and shall be accompanied by an affidavit that the member of the legislature or legislative employee will be or is in actual attendance of a session of the legislature or constitutional convention and that it is the legislator or legislative employee's intention to participate actively in the preparation or presentation of the case. Provides that the motion for continuance may be filed electronically if the member of the legislature or legislative employee seeking the continuance provides all enrolled counsel or parties with a copy of the motion prior to or simultaneously with the transmission of the motion for continuance to the clerk of court. Provides that every motion for a legislative continuance or extension shall be served by transmitting a copy by electronic means to counsel of record, or if there is no counsel of record, to the adverse party, at the number or addresses expressly designated in a pleading or other writing for receipt of electronic service. Service by electronic means is complete upon transmission but is not effective and shall not be certified if the serving party learns the transmission did not reach the party to be served.

Proposed law provides that if the attorney for a party seeking a continuance is a member of the legislature, the attorney shall also serve a copy of the motion for a legislative continuance or extension with the judicial administrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court. The copy of the motion shall be sent to the Louisiana Supreme Court contemporaneously with the filing of the motion for legislative continuance or extension with the court.

Proposed law provides that there shall be a presumption that a motion for continuance filed timely by the member of the legislature or legislative employee is proper and shall be granted within 72 hours of the filing of the motion. Requires the proceeding, legal delay or deadline to be reset to a date not less than 60 days from the date of adjournment sine die of any session of the legislature or of a constitutional convention.

Proposed law provides that the presumption may be overcome by clear and convincing evidence under either of the following circumstances:

- (1) The motion is being presented for an improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation.
- (2) The objecting party has a substantial existing right or interest that will be defeated or abridged and will suffer substantial and immediate irreparable harm if the requested continuance is granted.

Proposed law provides that if an opposing party files a written opposition to the continuance within 48 hours of the motion for continuance being filed, the court shall do both of the following:

- (1) Hold a contradictory hearing within 48 hours in accordance with present law.
- (2) Permit the contradictory hearing to be conducted remotely if deemed necessary.

Proposed law requires a court denying a properly filed motion for a legislative continuance shall issue contemporaneous written reasons for the denial.

Present law provides that any person or attorney who has filed a motion for legislative continuance or extension which has been denied or which has not been granted within 72 hours of filing may apply directly to the Supreme Court of Louisiana for supervisory writs to review the action or inaction of the court or agency where the motion was filed.

Proposed law provides that a member of the legislature or legislative employee who has filed a motion for legislative continuance which has been denied may apply directly to the supreme court for supervisory writs at no cost to review the action or inaction of the court where the motion was filed.

Proposed law provides that for good cause shown, the court may consider a motion for legislative continuance or extension at any time prior to the hearing or proceeding.

Present law provides that any action taken against a person, including any sanction imposed on an attorney, who has filed a motion for legislative continuance or extension and which results from the failure of such person or attorney to appear or comply with an order of the court or agency or any deadline shall be considered an absolute nullity and shall be set aside by the court or agency upon the filing of a motion by the aggrieved person or attorney.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law provides that legislative continuances shall not apply to cases in the Louisiana Supreme Court, criminal cases where the death penalty is sought, and administrative rulemaking. Also, provides that present law shall not apply to cases and proceedings wherein a member or employee is called as a witness, in which instances other provisions of present law shall apply.

Proposed law provides that civil prescriptive or preemptive periods, criminal statutes of limitations, and criminal cases where the death penalty is sought are excluded from legislative continuances. Also provides that proposed law does not apply to proceedings wherein a temporary restraining order, protective order, preliminary injunction, permanent injunction, court-approved consent agreement resulting from an action brought, or order issued pursuant to any of the following:

- (1) Certain present law provisions regarding domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault and peace bonds relating for such acts.
- (2) Criminal procedure law regarding the disposition, sentence, or bail condition of a criminal matter.
- (3) Present law prohibits communications between offenders and victims following a charge or after sentencing for any crime of violence, felony sex offense, felony human trafficking-related offense, or a felony offense committed upon a family member, household member, or dating partner.

- (4) Present law provides that as condition of a parole release which requires that the parolee stay away from any specific person, when the order is issued for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts, harassment against, contact or communication with, or physical proximity to, another person to prevent witness intimidation, domestic abuse, stalking, dating violence, or sexual assault.
- (5) Child custody proceedings or proceedings pursuant to the Domestic Violence Prevention Firearm Transfer Act.
- (6) Proceedings for writs of habeas corpus for the determination and enforcement of rights to the custody of a minor or for the release of a person in custody in which the family court has original jurisdiction.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:4163)