

SENATE BILL NO. 1

BY SENATOR MORRIS AND REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 5(B), 15(A), and 16(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to jurisdiction of courts; to provide for disciplinary proceedings over attorneys from other jurisdictions concerning legal services in the state and over related unethical practices; to authorize creation of courts of limited or specialized jurisdiction; 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, Sections 5(B), 15(A), and 16(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§5. Supreme Court; Jurisdiction; Rule-Making Power; Assignment of Judges

Section 5.(A)

\* \* \*

(B) Original Jurisdiction. The supreme court has exclusive original jurisdiction of disciplinary proceedings against a member of the bar **and any lawyer specially admitted by a court of this state for a particular proceeding, as well as any lawyer not admitted in this state who practices law or renders or offers to render any legal services in this state.**

\* \* \*

§15. Courts; Retention; Jurisdiction; Judicial District Changes; Terms

Section 15.(A) Court Retention; Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction. The district, family, juvenile, parish, city, and magistrate courts existing on the effective date of this constitution are retained. Subject to the limitations in Sections 16 and 21 of this Article, the legislature by law may abolish or merge trial courts of limited or

1 specialized jurisdiction. The legislature ~~by law~~ may establish trial courts of limited  
 2 ~~or specialized~~ jurisdiction ~~with parishwide territorial jurisdiction and subject matter~~  
 3 ~~jurisdiction which shall be uniform throughout the state~~ by law enacted by two-  
 4 thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature. Effective January  
 5 1, 2007, the legislature by law may establish new judgeships for district courts and  
 6 establish the new divisions with limited or specialized jurisdiction within the  
 7 territorial jurisdiction of the district court and subject matter jurisdiction over family  
 8 or juvenile matters as provided by law. The office of city marshal is continued until  
 9 the city court he serves is abolished.

10 \* \* \*

11 §16. District Courts; Jurisdiction

12 Section 16.(A) Original Jurisdiction. (1) Except as otherwise authorized by  
 13 this constitution or except as heretofore or hereafter provided by law for  
 14 administrative agency determinations in worker's compensation matters, a district  
 15 court shall have original jurisdiction of all civil and criminal matters. (2) ~~It~~ **Except**  
 16 **as otherwise authorized under this constitution, it** shall have exclusive original  
 17 jurisdiction of felony cases and of cases involving title to immovable property,  
 18 except as provided in (3) below; the right to office or other public position; civil or  
 19 political right; probate and succession matters; except for administrative agency  
 20 determination provided for in (1) above, the state, a political corporation, or political  
 21 subdivisions, or a succession, as a defendant; and the appointment of receivers or  
 22 liquidators for corporations or partnerships. (3) The legislature may provide by law  
 23 that a family court has jurisdiction of cases involving title to movable and  
 24 immovable property when those cases relate to the partition of community property  
 25 and the settlement of claims arising from matrimonial regimes when such action  
 26 arises as a result of divorce or annulment of marriage.

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to  
 29 the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on March 29, 2025,  
 30 or at a statewide election authorized by law, whichever occurs first.

1           Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election  
2 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
3 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
4 follows:

5                   Do you support an amendment granting the Louisiana Supreme Court  
6 jurisdiction to discipline out-of-state lawyers for unethical legal practices in  
7 the state of Louisiana, and to grant the legislature the authority to establish  
8 trial courts of limited and specialized jurisdiction?

9                   (Amends Article V, Sections 5(B), 15(A) and 16(A))

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES