

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 217 by Senator Morris

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, after "reenact", delete "R.S. 13:1137(B)," and insert "R.S. 13:1136,
3 1137(B),"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 On page 1, line 11, after "Section 1." delete "R.S. 13:1137(B)," and insert "R.S. 13:1136,
6 1137(B),"

7 AMENDMENT NO. 3

8 On page 1, after line 14, insert the following:

9 "§1136. Civil district court for the parish of Orleans; judges
10 A. There shall be one civil district court for the parish of Orleans. It
11 Effective January 1, 2027, it shall be composed of ~~fourteen~~ thirteen judges. The
12 judges of division A through J of said court on July 1, 1979, shall continue to serve
13 ~~the terms for which they were elected.~~ Their successors shall be elected by the
14 qualified electors of the parish of Orleans for terms of six years.
15 B. ~~Divisions K and L of the civil district court for the parish of Orleans are~~
16 ~~hereby created for the purpose of nomination and election of the judges elected to fill~~
17 ~~the two additional judgeships created by this Section. Judges elected to those~~
18 ~~divisions shall be elected by the qualified voters of Orleans Parish and shall have~~
19 ~~jurisdiction throughout the parish. One judge shall be elected to and shall preside~~
20 ~~over division K and one judge shall be elected to and shall preside over division L.~~
21 C. The judges elected to division K and L shall be elected for six-year terms
22 at the congressional elections held in 1984 and every sixth year thereafter.
23 D. ~~Divisions M and N of the civil district court for the parish of Orleans are~~
24 ~~hereby created for the purpose of nomination and election of the judges elected to fill~~
25 ~~the two additional judgeships created by this Section. Judges elected to these~~
26 ~~divisions shall be elected by the qualified voters of Orleans Parish and shall have~~
27 ~~jurisdiction throughout the parish.~~
28 E. The judges elected to divisions M and N shall be elected for a six-year
29 term at the congressional election held in 1996 and every sixth year thereafter.
30 F. The additional judges shall have the same qualifications and shall receive
31 ~~the same emoluments of office, compensation, and expense allowances, payable~~
32 ~~from the same sources and in the same manner, as are now or may hereafter be~~
33 ~~provided for other judges of the civil district court for the parish of Orleans. Each of~~
34 ~~such judges shall have the right to appoint a crier, stenographer and minute clerk for~~
35 ~~his own section of said court, who shall perform the same duties and receive the~~
36 ~~same compensation, payable in the same manner and from the same sources, as~~
37 ~~similar officials in other sections of divisions of said court.~~
38 B. Division "L" and the judgeship for division "L" shall be abolished
39 at the end of December 31, 2026. The divisions of the civil district court shall
40 be A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, and N. As provided in R.S. 13:1138,
41 Divisions H and K shall remain as Domestic Relations Sections.
42 C. The Orleans civil district court is authorized to utilize hearing
43 officers in the same manner as any other district court, including pursuant to
44 R.S. 46:236.5. If the court finds that the use of hearing officers alleviates the
45 requirement for a third full-time domestic relations section, the en banc court
46 is authorized to abolish Domestic Relations Section 3, created pursuant to its

1 **rules, or to otherwise provide that the judge assigned to that section may be**
2 **assigned a docket that is partially general jurisdiction and partially domestic**
3 **relations, all as may be provided for under rules adopted by the en banc court.**

4 **G.D.** All of the judges of the civil district court for the parish of Orleans shall
5 be elected at the congressional elections, commencing in 1984 and every sixth year
6 thereafter. Each judge shall take office on the first day of January of the year
7 following election and shall serve through December thirty-first of the last year of
8 his term. The term of office of judges of the civil district court for the parish of
9 Orleans shall be six years."

10 AMENDMENT NO. 4

11 On page 9, line 8, after "**when**" insert "**already**"

12 AMENDMENT NO. 5

13 On page 11, line 9, after "through" delete "**F**" and insert "**G**"

14 AMENDMENT NO. 6

15 On page 11, between lines 24 and 25, insert the following:

16 "Section 3. Any judges and the related divisions otherwise abolished under this Act
17 shall remain in effect only to the end of their current terms of office. No provision of this
18 Act shall deprive any judge in office of the ability to serve the entire remainder of his or her
19 current unexpired term of office. To effectuate the provisions of this Act, no further
20 elections shall be held for any judgeship abolished pursuant to the provisions of this Act,
21 including for any division repealed under Section 1 of this Act."

22 AMENDMENT NO. 7

23 On page 11, line 25, change "3" to "4"