

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1252 (Substitute for House Bill No. 1165 by Representative Deshotel)

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

COURTS: Provides relative to the city court system in Avoyelles Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1952(introductory paragraph) and (7), 2488.51(A) through
3 (C), 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59 and to enact R.S. 13:2488.51(F), relative to
4 the city courts of Avoyelles Parish; to provide for the jurisdiction of the city court
5 of Bunkie; to provide for the jurisdiction of the city court of Marksville; to provide
6 for elections; to provide for the appellate review of justice of the peace decisions; to
7 provide for the imposition and payment of fees in the city courts of Bunkie and
8 Marksville; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 13:1952(introductory paragraph) and (7), 2488.51(A) through (C),
11 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
12 13:2488.51(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1952. Courts created by special legislative Act

14 The following city courts, ~~heretofore~~ created and established by special
15 legislative Act, are hereby recognized and continued in existence and, except as
16 otherwise provided in this Section, ~~their~~ the respective territorial jurisdiction shall
17 extend through the city and ward or wards ~~wherein the city~~ in which ~~they are~~ each
18 court is domiciled is located, as such boundaries may be extended from time to time:

19 * * *

1 ~~jurisdiction of the justice of the peace court shall be exclusive jurisdiction to the~~
2 ~~extent of the jurisdiction presently vested in the justice of the peace court by the~~
3 ~~constitution and the laws of this state. The justice of the peace and constable courts~~
4 ~~in wards one, three, four, five, six and eleven shall work in conjunction with the city~~
5 ~~court. There shall be no justice of the peace or mayor's court in ward two.~~

6 C. ~~The city judge and marshal appointed by the governor shall serve until~~
7 ~~their successors are elected by the qualified electors of Ward 2 of Avoyelles Parish,~~
8 ~~Louisiana, at the general election for Representatives in Congress, to be held in~~
9 ~~Louisiana on the first Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 1974,~~
10 ~~and their successors shall be elected thereafter in conformity with the provisions of~~
11 ~~Article VII of Section 51 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 and other applicable~~
12 ~~provisions of the law. The city court shall have a small claims division and shall~~
13 ~~have concurrent jurisdiction with the Twelfth Judicial District Court in all criminal~~
14 ~~misdemeanor cases, civil cases with disputes less than fifty thousand dollars, and~~
15 ~~juvenile matters.~~

16 D. ~~The city judge and marshal of Marksville shall be elected by the qualified~~
17 ~~electors of Wards one, two, three, four, five, six, and eleven of Avoyelles Parish,~~
18 ~~Louisiana, at the general election for Representatives in Congress, to be held in~~
19 ~~Louisiana on the first Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026~~
20 ~~and every six years thereafter.~~

21 * * *

22 F. ~~All cases appealable from the justice of the peace courts in wards one,~~
23 ~~three, four, five, six and eleven shall be reviewable and appealable to the city court~~
24 ~~in the manner as prescribed in the Code of Civil Procedure Article 2081, et seq. and~~
25 ~~made a matter of record.~~

26 * * *

27 §2488.57. Collection of fines, forfeitures, penalties, and costs

28 A. The city judge, or any officer of the city court designated by the city
29 judge, shall collect all fines, forfeitures, penalties, and costs, and all ~~funds so~~

1 collected funds, excluding costs, shall be paid into the town treasury of the town of
2 Marksville when the prosecution is on behalf of the town, and into the parish
3 treasury when the prosecution is on behalf of the state or the parish.

4 B. The city judge may engage a study or seek out grants for the
5 implementation of an online method for the payment of fines and for virtual court
6 appearances. The expenses for any study are to be paid with proceeds from the
7 court's criminal fund upon the approval the city and parish governing authorities.

8 §2488.58. Criminal matters; costs

9 A. In all criminal matters, including traffic violation cases, the city judge
10 may assess, in addition to the fine or other penalty imposed, costs of court in an
11 amount not to exceed ~~eight~~ twenty dollars.

12 * * *

13 §2488.59. Civil matters; costs

14 In all civil matters, in addition to any other costs or fees ~~provided by law~~, the
15 city judge may assess an additional cost of court in an amount not to exceed ~~ten~~
16 twenty dollars, except as otherwise provided by law.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1252 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session Deshotel

Abstract: Provides relative to the city court system in Avoyelles Parish.

Present law provides for one city court judge in Marksville and one city court judge in Bunkie. Both city court judgeships are located in Avoyelles Parish.

Proposed law retains present law but expands the geographical jurisdiction of the Marksville city court to include all of wards one, two, three, four, five, six and eleven of Avoyelles Parish. Further extends the geographical jurisdiction of the Bunkie city court to include wards seven, eight, nine and ten of Avoyelles Parish.

Proposed law requires the city judge and marshal of Bunkie to be elected by the electors of wards seven, eight, nine, and ten of Avoyelles Parish at the general election for Representatives in Congress every six years.

Proposed law requires the city judge and marshal of Marksville to be elected by the electors of wards one, two, three, four, five, six, and eleven of Avoyelles Parish at the general election for Representatives in Congress every six years.

Proposed law provides for both city courts to have a small claims division and concurrent jurisdiction with the 12th Judicial District Court in all criminal misdemeanor cases, civil cases with disputes less than \$50,000, and juvenile matters.

Present law provides for the payment of salaries for a marshal, clerk of court, and deputy clerks, as well as expenses for the operation and maintenance of the courtroom and offices of the city court to be paid by the town of Marksville and the parish of Avoyelles.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the justice of the peace courts and constable courts in wards one, three, four, five, six and eleven to work in conjunction with the city court in Marksville. Further provides that there is no justice of the peace or mayor's court in ward two.

Present law provides for the collection and deposit of fines, forfeitures, penalties, fees, and costs in criminal and civil matters by the city judge in Marksville.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the city judge may seek grants or engage a study for the implementation of an online method of payment of fines and for virtual court appearances. Permits the use of proceeds from the court's criminal fund upon the approval of the city and parish governing authorities.

Present law provides that the city judge may impose a fine in criminal matters of \$8.

Proposed law increases the fine in present law from \$8 to \$20.

Present law provides that the city judge may impose a fine in civil matters not to exceed \$10.

Proposed law increases the fine in present law from \$10 to \$20, except as otherwise provided by law.

(Amends R.S. 13:1952(intro. para.) and (7), 2488.51(A)-(C), 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59; Adds R.S. 13:2488.51(F) and (G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide for the election of the city court judges and marshals in Bunkie and Marksville at the general election for Representatives in Congress every six years.