

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 972 (HB 1252)

2026 Regular Session

Deshotel

Existing 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.

New law 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.

New 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.

New 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.

New 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.

Existing 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.

New 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.

Existing 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.

New law authorizes the city judge of Marksville to seek grants or conduct a study to implement an online method for the payment of fines and virtual court appearances. Permits the use of proceeds from the court's criminal fund upon the approval of the city and parish governing authorities.

Existing law authorizes the city judge to impose a fine in criminal matters. New law increases the fine from \$8 to \$20.

Existing law authorizes the city judge to impose a fine in civil matters. New law increases the fine from \$10 to \$20 and provides for exceptions.

New law provides that the expanded territorial jurisdiction and concurrent jurisdiction granted to the City Court of Bunkie and the City Court of Marksville applies only to causes of action, criminal proceedings, juvenile proceedings, and other matters filed on or after Jan. 1, 2027. Further provides for all matters filed prior to Jan. 1, 2027, to remain in the court where originally filed and to proceed to conclusion in that court unless otherwise provided by law.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 25, 2026).

(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))