
DIGEST

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HB 600 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Amends the qualifications, salaries, and number of judgeships of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, and provides for other changes to this consolidated court.

Present law provides for the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans. (Act 845 of 2014 R.S. merged the two separate municipal and traffic courts into the one consolidated court, to become effective Jan. 1, 2017.) Provides for eight judgeships, and requires each judge candidate to have a minimum of five years experience as an attorney prior to his election and to be an elector of the parish of Orleans.

Proposed law provides for the following major changes to present law, most of which become effective on Jan. 1, 2017:

- (1) Changes the qualifications for judgeships from having five years of experience as an attorney to having eight years of experience. Also provides that judicial candidates must be domiciled in the parish of Orleans for at least two years prior to election.
- (2) Reduces the number of judgeships from 8 to 7 by abolishing either the judgeship in Division H, effective Dec. 31, 2020, or the judgeship in any other division left vacant by death, resignation, retirement, or removal. Prohibits the judges in Divisions A through D from engaging in the practice of law, and provides that the judges in Divisions E-G shall have that same prohibition, on a staggered basis.
- (3) Provides that the salary of the judges shall be equal to that of the district court judges but not more salary paid to the district court judges in Orleans Parish, payable in part by the state and the remainder to be paid by the city of New Orleans.
- (4) Provides for the appointment of ad hoc judges selected pursuant to rules of the La. Supreme Court when a judge is temporarily absent.
- (5) Provides for the clerk of court's salary to be set by the judges en banc.
- (6) Removes the automatic requirement that all testimony be taken verbatim, and provides that it be done upon request of any party.
- (7) Requires the city of New Orleans to provide one N.O.P.D. officer for each division of the court.

- (8) Requires the city of New Orleans to pay for the expenses of implementation of the consolidation in accordance with a cooperative endeavor agreement.
- (9) Repeals present law (R.S. 13:2500.1) regarding fees and provisions for the probation department of the Municipal and Traffic Court, and repeals present law (R.S. 13:2501) requiring each judge of the court to collect and remit all fines to the New Orleans city treasurer.

(Amends R.S. 13:2492(A), (B), (D), (E), and (F), 2493(A), (B), and (C), 2495(B), 2495.1(A), 2496.2(A), 2496.3(F) and (G)(3), 2497(A), 2498, 2499, and 2500.2; Repeals R.S. 13:2493(G), 2500.1, and 2501)