

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 221

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COURTS/MAYORS: Expands the jurisdiction of mayor's courts to include the collection of municipal utility debts

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:441(A)(5), relative to mayor's courts; to provide relative to the jurisdiction  
3 of mayor's courts; to provide relative to the collection of municipal utility debts; to  
4 provide relative to court costs; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 33:441(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §441. Mayor's court

8 A.

9 \* \* \*

10 (5)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a mayor's  
11 court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the district court of civil suits to collect  
12 utility debts within the municipality, where the good faith amount in dispute does  
13 not exceed five thousand dollars, exclusive of penalties, interest, court costs, attorney  
14 fees and penalties, whether provided by agreement or by law. The jurisdiction  
15 granted by this Paragraph shall be limited to suits to collect utility debts owed to the  
16 municipality or to a utility system owned or operated by the municipality.

17 (b) If the demand asserted in a good faith original, amended or supplemental  
18 pleading, cross claim, or in any good faith incidental demand or any other pleading,  
19 exceeds the jurisdiction of the court, the court shall transfer the action to a court of  
20 proper jurisdiction.



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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)]

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HB 221 Original

2019 Regular Session

Stefanski

**Abstract:** Expands the jurisdiction of mayor's courts to include the collection of certain utility debts.

Proposed law expands the current jurisdiction of mayor's courts to allow for the collection of municipal utility debts. This jurisdiction shall be concurrent with the district courts where the amount in question does not exceed \$5,000. If the amount in question exceeds the jurisdictional limits of the mayor's court, the action shall be transferred to a court of proper jurisdiction. Additionally, the court shall appoint a lawyer to serve as a court magistrate to hear all civil utility debt suits. This magistrate will have the ability to impose court costs against the debtor not to exceed \$35.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:441(A)(5))