The original instrument was prepared by Michael Bell. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Ann S. Brown.

DIGEST 2021 Regular Session

McMath

SB 163 Reengrossed

<u>Present constitution</u> provides that the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> provides that, effective January 1, 2025, the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court will increase <u>from</u> six associate justices <u>to</u> eight, five of whom must concur to render judgment.

<u>Present constitution</u> provides that the state shall be divided into supreme court districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each district. The districts and the number of judges assigned to each are subject to change by law if enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> retains <u>present constitution</u> but provides that the state shall be divided into supreme court districts as substantially equal based upon population and one justice shall be elected from each district.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> mandates the legislature to set forth the specific method of transitioning to nine single member districts.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> provides that no supreme court justice in office at the time of the adoption of the <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u>, nor his or her successor, shall, as a result of this amendment, have their term diminished or extended.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> requires the legislature to redistrict each supreme court district to be substantially equal on the basis of population shown by the census at the end of the year following the year in which the population of this state is reported to the president of the United States.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> mandates redistricting of the supreme court by the supreme court in the manner provided in <u>present constitution</u> if the legislature fails to do so as required by <u>proposed constitutional amendment</u>.

Provides that if the amendment is approved by the voters, it shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at a statewide election to be held on October 9, 2021.

(Amends Const. Arts. V, Sec. 3 and 4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary A to the original bill

- 1. Provides January 1, 2025, as an effective date for the supreme court to transition from seven to nine justices.
- 2. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

- 1. Raises the level required to redistrict the supreme court districts from "as equal as practicable" to "substantially equal" on the basis of population shown by the census.
- 2. Makes technical changes.