

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 513

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

JUDGES: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to the voting requirements needed to change the number of judges in a judicial district

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 4, 9, and 15(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide relative to judgeships; to provide relative to the votes needed in each house of the legislature to change the number of judges in any judicial district; to provide relative to the votes needed in each house of the legislature to change the number of districts and judges in any appellate circuit and supreme court district; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Section 4, 9, and 15(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§4. Supreme Court; Districts

Section 4. The state shall be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each. The districts and the number of judges assigned to each on the effective date of this constitution are retained, subject to change by law enacted by ~~two-thirds~~ a majority of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

\* \* \*

1 §9. Courts of Appeal; Circuits and Districts

2 Section 9. Each circuit shall be divided into at least three districts, and at  
3 least one judge shall be elected from each. The circuits and districts and the number  
4 of judges as elected in each circuit on the effective date of this constitution are  
5 retained, subject to change by law enacted by ~~two-thirds~~ a majority of the elected  
6 members of each house of the legislature.

7 \* \* \*

8 §15. Courts; Retention; Jurisdiction; Judicial District Changes; Terms

9 \* \* \*

10 (D) Number of Judges. The legislature may change the number of judges  
11 in any judicial district by law enacted by ~~two-thirds~~ a majority of the elected  
12 members of each house.

13 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
14 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8,  
15 2022.

16 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
17 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
18 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
19 follows:

20 Do you support an amendment that allows the legislature to change the  
21 number of judges in any judicial district and the number of districts and  
22 judges in any appellate circuit and supreme court district by a majority vote  
23 instead of a two-thirds vote from the elected members of both houses?  
24 (Amends Article V, Sections 4, 9, and 15(D))

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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 513 Original

2022 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Allows the legislature to change the number of judges in any judicial district and number of districts and judges in any appellate circuit and supreme court district by majority vote.

Present law provides that the legislature may change the number of judges in any judicial district and number of districts and judges in any appellate circuit and supreme court district by a vote of 2/3rds of the elected members of each house.

Proposed law changes present law **from** a vote of 2/3rds of the elected members of each house **to** a majority of the elected members of each house.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2022.

(Amends Const. Art. V, §§4, 9, and 15(D))