

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 288

BY SENATOR HEWITT

COURTS. Constitutional Amendment to increase the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six to eight associate justices. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court; to provide for two additional associate supreme court justices; to provide for the method of transition; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

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, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§3. Supreme Court; Composition; Judgments; Terms

Section 3. ~~(A) Effective until January 1, 2024, The the~~ supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment. The term of a supreme court judge shall be ten years.

**(B) Effective on January 1, 2024, the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices, five of whom must concur to render judgment. The term of a supreme court justice shall be ten years.**

1 §4. Supreme Court; Districts

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

7 **(B) The legislature shall by law set forth the specific method of**  
8 **transitioning to nine single-member supreme court districts to be drawn in**  
9 **accordance with the provisions of this Section. Notwithstanding any provision**  
10 **herein to the contrary, no supreme court justice in office at the time of the**  
11 **adoption of the amendment to this Section, nor his or her successor, shall, as a**  
12 **result of this amendment, have his or her term diminished or extended. Any**  
13 **decision reached by a majority of the supreme court after the passage of this**  
14 **constitutional amendment, but before its full implementation by the legislature,**  
15 **shall be binding and be given full effect.**

16 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
17 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at a statewide election to be held on November 8,  
18 2022.

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

23 Do you support an amendment to change the number of justices on the  
24 Louisiana Supreme Court from seven to nine?

25 (Amends Article V, Sec. 3 and 4)

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

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SB 288 Original

DIGEST  
2022 Regular Session

Hewitt

Present constitution provides that the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and

six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that, beginning January 1, 2024, the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court will increase from six associate justices to eight, five of whom must concur to render judgment.

Present constitution 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.

Proposed constitutional amendment mandates the legislature to set forth the specific method of transitioning to nine single-member districts.

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

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at a statewide election to be held on November 8, 2022.

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