
DIGEST

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HB 851 Original

2022 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

Abstract: Provides for the redistricting of the state's supreme court and provides for the composition of seven supreme court districts. Effective upon signature of governor for election purposes for the regular supreme court District 6 election in 2022 and on Jan. 1, 2023, for all purposes.

Statistical summaries of proposed law including maps illustrating proposed district boundaries accompany this digest. (*Attached to the bill version on the internet.*)

Present constitution (Const. Art. V, §3) provides the supreme court must be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices.

Present constitution (Const. Art. V, §4) provides the state must be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each. Further provides 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 of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed law redraws district boundaries for the seven supreme court districts.

Proposed law provides the district boundaries will be effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action for the purposes of qualifying for election and the election of a member of the supreme court from District 6 at the regularly scheduled election for such office in 2022.

Proposed law provides for subsequent elections of members of the supreme court and for all other purposes an effective date of Jan. 1, 2023, at which time present law is repealed and proposed districts are effective for all other purposes.

Proposed law repeals present law that provides for an additional judgeship for the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit who is assigned to the La. Supreme Court.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts identified as Voting Districts (VTDs) in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the state of La. as validated through the data verification program of the La. legislature. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with present law, the enumeration of the general precinct designation shall include all

nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides that the territorial limits of the districts as enacted shall continue in effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Population data in the summaries accompanying this digest are derived from 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Summary File for Louisiana. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action for election purposes only for the supreme court District 6 election in 2022; effective on Jan. 1, 2023, for all other purposes.

(Adds R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3; Repeals R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4)