
DIGEST

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HB 176 Original

2024 Regular Session

Melerine

Abstract: Provides for the redistricting of the state's supreme court and provides for the composition of nine supreme court districts. Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article V of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 28 of this 2024 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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 shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices.

Proposed constitutional amendment (House Bill No. 28) provides the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices.

Present constitution (Const. Art. V, §4) provides the state shall 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 constitutional amendment (House Bill No. 28) retains present constitution.

Proposed law redraws district boundaries for nine supreme court districts.

Proposed law provides the proposed districts are effective for all purposes if and when the proposed constitutional amendment is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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 contained in the file named "2024 Precinct Shapefiles (01-10-2024)" available on the La. legislature's website. The 2024 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the State of La. as those files have been modified and validated through the data verification program of the La. House of Representatives and the La. Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through Jan. 10, 2024, to the Legislature of La. by parish governing authorities.

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.

Proposed law provides that the initial terms of office of supreme court justices to be elected from Districts 8 and 9 begin on Jan. 1, 2025.

Proposed law provides that the initial term of office of the justice elected from District 8 ends on Jan. 1, 2032, and the initial term of office of the justice elected from District 9 ends on Jan. 1, 2030.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article V of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 28 of this 2024 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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