

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 442

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROBBY CARTER, MUSCARELLO, AND WILEY

JUDGES: Creates an additional judgeship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:477(21) and 621.21(A) and (E), relative to the Twenty-First  
3 Judicial District Court; to create an additional judgeship for the Twenty-First Judicial  
4 District Court; to provide for the election and term of the additional judge; to provide  
5 for election sections from which judges are elected; to provide for effectiveness; and  
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:477(21) and 621.21(A) and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted  
9 to read as follows:

10 §477. Judicial districts

11 There shall be forty-one judicial districts in the state and each district shall  
12 be composed as follows:

13 \* \* \*

14 (21) The parishes of Tangipahoa, Livingston, and St. Helena shall compose  
15 the Twenty-First District. The Twenty-First District consists of two election  
16 sections. Election section one is composed of Tangipahoa, Livingston, and St.  
17 Helena Parishes. Election section two is composed of St. Helena Parish and Precincts  
18 2, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 43, 46, 47, 49, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109, 111A, 115B,  
19 119, 123, and 129A of Tangipahoa Parish.

20 \* \* \*

1 §621.21. Twenty-First Judicial District

2 A. The Twenty-First Judicial District Court shall have ~~nine~~ ten judges.

3 \* \* \*

4 E.(1) ~~The~~ Nine judges and their successors created by this Section shall be  
5 elected ~~at large~~ from election section one and shall have jurisdiction throughout the  
6 district. The judges shall be elected for a six-year term at the congressional election  
7 held in 2014 and every sixth year thereafter.

8 (2)(a) The additional judge added to the court pursuant to the Act that  
9 originated as House Bill No. 442 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana  
10 Legislature shall be elected from election section two as provided by R.S. 13:477(21)  
11 and shall have jurisdiction throughout the district.

12 (b) The individual to be elected to the additional judgeship shall be elected  
13 as provided by Article V, Section 22 of the Constitution of Louisiana and shall serve  
14 a term which begins on the first January first following the effective date of Section  
15 1 of the Act that originated as House Bill No. 442 of the 2024 Regular Session of the  
16 Louisiana Legislature, and which shall expire at the same time as is provided by law  
17 for the other judges of the court. Thereafter, the successors to the judge provided for  
18 in this Paragraph shall be elected at the same time and shall serve the same term as  
19 is provided by law for other judges of the court.

20 \* \* \*

21 Section 2.(A) The precincts referenced in this Act are those contained in the file  
22 named "2024 Precinct Shapefiles (01-10-2024)" available on the Legislature of Louisiana's  
23 website on the effective date of this Section. The 2024 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon  
24 those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line  
25 Shapefiles for the State of Louisiana as those files have been modified and validated through  
26 the data verification program of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana  
27 Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through January 10, 2024, to the Legislature  
28 of Louisiana by parish governing authorities pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:532 and  
29 532.1.

1 (B) When a precinct referenced in this Act has been subdivided by action of the  
 2 parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish  
 3 governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with the provisions of R.S.  
 4 18:532.1, the enumeration in this Act of the general precinct designation shall include all  
 5 nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof, however such subdivisions may be  
 6 designated.

7 (C) The territorial limits of the districts as provided in this Act shall continue in  
 8 effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by  
 9 the parish governing authority.

10 Section 3.(A) The provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall become effective  
 11 if and when a work point study by the National Center for State Courts is completed in  
 12 accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 2024 Regular Session of the  
 13 Louisiana Legislature and the work point study concludes the additional district court  
 14 judgeship is necessary.

15 (B) The provisions of this Section shall become effective upon signature by the  
 16 governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become  
 17 law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the  
 18 Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the  
 19 legislature, this Section shall become effective on the day following such approval.

---

#### 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)]

---

HB 442 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Robby Carter

**Abstract:** Creates an additional judgeship for the 21st Judicial District Court and provides an election section from which the judge is to be elected.

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

Present law provides that the 21st Judicial District Court is comprised of Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa Parishes. Provides that the 21st Judicial District Court has nine judges, who are elected at large.

Proposed law adds a 10th judge to the 21st Judicial District Court.

Proposed law divides the 21st Judicial District Court into two election sections and provides that nine judges are assigned to election section one and one judge is assigned to election section two.

Provides that the additional judge added by proposed law shall be elected from election section two and that his initial term begins on the first January first following the effective date of Section 1 of the Act that originated as HB 442 of the 2024 Regular Session.

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 legislature's website. Provides that 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.

Proposed law 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 La. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

Effective upon the completion of a work point study conducted by the National Center of State Courts is completed in accordance with HCR 39 of the 2024 Regular Session and the work point study concludes the additional judgeship is necessary.

(Amends R.S. 13:477(21) and 621.21(A) and (E))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Provide the specific boundaries of two election sections.
2. Provide an effective date.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Revise the boundaries of election section one.
2. Provide that the additional judge shall have jurisdiction throughout the district.
3. Remove the requirement that the additional judge be elected in the same manner as the judges elected from election section one.
4. Provide for identification of the precincts referenced in proposed law.

5. Make effectiveness of the bill contingent upon the completion of a work point study by the National Center for State Courts in accordance with HCR 39 of the 2024 Regular Session.

# Plan Statistics

Plan: HCA 1715 - HB 442 (Carter)

<u>Districts:</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Ideal Population</u>	<u>Absolute Deviation</u>	<u>Relative Deviation</u>
Election Section 1	9	243,542	257,715	-14,173	-5.499%
Election Section 2	1	42,817	28,635	14,182	49.527%
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>286,359</b>	<b>286,350</b>		

Ideal Population Per Member:	28635			
Number of Districts for Plan Type:	2			
Range of District Populations:	42,817	to	243,542	
Absolute Mean Deviation:	14,178			
Absolute Range:	-14,173	to	14,182	
Absolute Overall Range:	28,355			
Relative Mean Deviation:	27.51%			
Relative Range:	-5.50%	to	49.53%	
Relative Overall Range:	55.03%			

<b><i>Ideal - Actual:</i></b>	<b>-9</b>
<b><i>Remainder:</i></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Unassigned Population:</i></b>	<b>0</b>

# Total Population

Plan: HCA 1715 - HB 442 (Carter)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	Total Hispanic	VAP Total	VAP White	VAP Black	VAP Asian	VAP American Indian	VAP Other	VAP Hispanic Total
Election Section 1	243,542	185,601	36,707	2,979	5,235	13,020	14,821	182,672	143,411	24,647	2,057	3,896	8,661	9,417
	100.000%	76.209%	15.072%	1.223%	2.150%	5.346%	6.086%	100.000%	78.507%	13.492%	1.126%	2.133%	4.741%	5.155%
Election Section 2	42,817	17,117	23,861	231	464	1,144	1,428	32,423	14,031	17,077	170	351	794	962
	100.000%	39.977%	55.728%	0.540%	1.084%	2.672%	3.335%	100.000%	43.275%	52.669%	0.524%	1.083%	2.449%	2.967%
Grand Total	286,359	202,718	60,568	3,210	5,699	14,164	16,249	215,095	157,442	41,724	2,227	4,247	9,455	10,379
	100.000%	70.792%	21.151%	1.121%	1.990%	4.946%	5.674%	100.000%	73.196%	19.398%	1.035%	1.974%	4.396%	4.825%

# Voter Registration

Plan: HCA 1715 - HB 442 (Carter)

	Reg Total Dec 2023	Reg White Dec 2023	Reg Black Dec 2023	Reg Other Dec 2023	Reg Dem Total Dec 2023	Reg Rep Total Dec 2023	Reg Other Total Dec 2023
Election Section 1	130,766	112,949	12,794	5,023	28,440	64,951	37,375
	71.585%	86.375%	9.784%	3.841%	21.749%	49.670%	28.582%
Election Section 2	23,185	10,504	12,152	529	12,715	5,693	4,777
	71.508%	45.305%	52.413%	2.282%	54.841%	24.555%	20.604%
Grand Total	153,951	123,453	24,946	5,552	41,155	70,644	42,152

# Splits

Plan: HCA 1715 - HB 442 (Carter)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	VAP Total	VAP White	VAP Black	VAP Asian	VAP American Indian	VAP Other	Reg Total Dec 2023	Reg White Dec 2023	Reg Black Dec 2023	Reg Other Dec 2023
Election Section 1																
Livingston	142,282	116,855	12,658	1,697	3,111	7,961	105,141	88,432	8,136	1,099	2,311	5,163	82,405	73,655	5,642	3,108
*Tangipahoa	101,260	68,746	24,049	1,282	2,124	5,059	77,531	54,979	16,511	958	1,585	3,498	48,361	39,294	7,152	1,915
Election Section 1	243,542	185,601	36,707	2,979	5,235	13,020	182,672	143,411	24,647	2,057	3,896	8,661	130,766	112,949	12,794	5,023
	100.000%	76.209%	15.072%	1.223%	2.150%	5.346%	100.000%	78.507%	13.492%	1.126%	2.133%	4.741%	71.585%	86.375%	9.784%	3.841%
Election Section 2																
St. Helena	10,920	4,527	6,031	39	134	189	8,463	3,805	4,371	28	109	150	8,260	3,626	4,492	142
*Tangipahoa	31,897	12,590	17,830	192	330	955	23,960	10,226	12,706	142	242	644	14,925	6,878	7,660	387
Election Section 2	42,817	17,117	23,861	231	464	1,144	32,423	14,031	17,077	170	351	794	23,185	10,504	12,152	529
	100.000%	39.977%	55.728%	0.540%	1.084%	2.672%	100.000%	43.275%	52.669%	0.524%	1.083%	2.449%	71.508%	45.305%	52.413%	2.282%

