

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 708

2026 Regular Session

Ventrella

COURTS/JUSTICE OF PEACE: Authorizes concurrent jurisdiction for justice of the peace and city courts in East Baton Rouge Parish

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Relocates proposed law regarding the concurrent jurisdiction of justices of the peace in East Baton Rouge Parish from the Code of Civil Procedure to the La. Revised Statutes of 1950.
2. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law (R.S. 13:2586(C)) provides that a justice of the peace court has concurrent jurisdiction with a parish or district court over suits for the possession or ownership of movable property and over suits by landowners or lessors for the eviction of occupants or tenants of leased residential premises regardless of the amount of monthly or yearly rent or rent for the unexpired term of the lease.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 4912(B)) provides that a justice of the peace court has jurisdiction over suits by landowners or lessors for the eviction of occupants or tenants of leased commercial premises and leased farmlands when the amount of the monthly rent does not exceed \$5,000 per month, regardless of the amount of rent due or the rent for the unexpired term of the lease.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that justices of the peace in East Baton Rouge Parish have concurrent jurisdiction with the city courts in East Baton Rouge Parish for the eviction of occupants or tenants of leased residential or commercial premises and leased farmlands when the amount of the monthly rent does not exceed \$5,000, regardless of the amount of yearly rent or rent for the unexpired term of the lease.

Present law (R.S. 13:2602) provides for the territorial jurisdiction of the six justice of the peace courts within the parish of East Baton Rouge, as they existed on Sept. 12, 1980, to continue and not be diminished or otherwise changed by reason of the annexation into any municipality within the parish of all or any part of the area comprising such territorial jurisdiction of a justice of the peace court. Further provides that whenever, by reason of annexation, the territorial jurisdiction of a mayor's court or a city court is extended into all or any part of the existing territorial jurisdiction of a justice of the peace court, the territorial jurisdiction of the mayor's court or the city court is concurrent with that of the justice of the peace court.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead provides for the territorial jurisdiction of the six justice of the peace courts in East Baton Rouge Parish and provides that each district serves as an election district for justice of the peace and constable.

Proposed law requires persons elected to the offices of justice of the peace and constable for such justice of the peace courts in East Baton Rouge Parish at the regularly scheduled election in 2026 and their successors to be elected from the districts provided in proposed law.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts

contained in the file named "2026 Precinct Shapefiles (01-27-2026)" available on the legislature's website. Provides that the 2025 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. 27, 2026, 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 includes all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides for the territorial limits of the districts, as enacted, to 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.

Proposed law provides for each justice of the peace court in East Baton Rouge Parish to retain jurisdiction over any matter properly filed with the court on or before the effective date of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:2602; Adds R.S. 13:2586(C)(9))