

SENATE BILL NO. 197

BY SENATOR MORRIS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 13:312.1(D), relative to judges on the court of appeal; to provide for the number of judges on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal; to reduce the number of judges serving on the fourth circuit; to provide for implementation of the reduced number of judges; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:312.1(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§312.1. Circuit court of appeal; domicile; number of judges; election

* * *

D. The Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit, domiciled in the city of New Orleans, shall have ~~twelve~~ ten judges. ~~Eight~~ Seven judges shall be elected from the first district of the fourth circuit by the qualified electors thereof. One judge shall be elected from the second district by the qualified electors thereof. One judge shall be elected from the third district by the qualified electors thereof. ~~Two judges~~ One judge shall be elected from the circuit at large by the qualified electors thereof.

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Section 2. No provision of this Act shall deprive any judge in office of the ability to serve the entire remainder of his or her term. To effectuate the provisions of this Act, no further elections shall be held for Division G of the first district of the fourth circuit or for the at large seat currently held by Chief Judge Roland Belsome with a term expiring on December 31, 2031, whether at the end of the current term or due to a vacancy caused by the death, resignation, retirement, or incapacity of the judge.

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____