

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 295 (HB 263)

2026 Regular Session

Farnum

Existing law provides relative to the elected magistrate judge of the 14th JDC. Further provides for term limits, qualifications, salary requirements, and related matters.

New law provides that subject to the approval of the en banc judges of the 14th JDC, the magistrate judge may preside over specialty court programs to fully adjudicate related felony charges for those who have pled into or otherwise agreed to participate in a specialty court program.

New law defines "specialty court" as any program designated as such by the La. Supreme Court. This includes drug court, Veterans Court programs, driving while intoxicated court, mental health court, reentry court, domestic abuse court, behavioral health court, or any juvenile specialty court handling matters related to allegations of domestic abuse.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 13:589(E))