

Regular Session, 2013

ACT No. 102

HOUSE BILL NO. 169

BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 13:621.21(B) and to enact R.S. 13:621.21(C), (D), (E), and (F), relative to district court judgeships in the Twenty-First Judicial District Court; to abolish a judgeship in the Twenty-First Judicial District Court and to provide for the creation of a new judgeship; to provide for limited subject matter jurisdiction; to provide for effective dates; to provide election requirements and terms of office; to provide for compensation and expense allowances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:621.21(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 13:621.21(C), (D), (E), and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§621.21. Twenty-First Judicial District

* * *

B.(1) The judgeship comprising Division H shall be abolished effective midnight, December 31, 2014, ~~or at any earlier time upon such judgeship becoming vacant for any reason.~~

(2) There is hereby created a new judgeship effective January 1, 2015, ~~or at any earlier time upon the judgeship in the former Division H becoming vacant.~~ This judge and his successors shall preside over Division J, which is hereby created for purposes of nomination, election, and subject matter. The subject matter jurisdiction of Division J is limited, under the provisions of Article V, Section 15(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to family and juvenile matters as provided by law. For

1 purposes of this Subsection, "family matters" shall include all actions arising under
2 Titles V and VII of Book I and Title VI of Book III of the Louisiana Civil Code,
3 adoptions arising under the Louisiana Civil Code and the Louisiana Children's Code,
4 actions involving protection from family violence pursuant to R.S. 46:2131 et seq.,
5 and actions for enforcement, collection of support, and paternity pursuant to R.S.
6 46:236.5. The jurisdiction or term of office of any other judge of the district shall
7 not be affected or reduced by the creation of this judgeship.

8 (3) For the purposes of this Subsection, a vacancy shall be created by death,
9 resignation, retirement, or any other reason.

10 C.(1) The judgeship comprising Division G shall be abolished effective
11 midnight, December 31, 2014.

12 (2) There is hereby created a new judgeship effective January 1, 2015. The
13 judge and his successors shall preside over Division K, which is hereby created for
14 purposes of nomination, election, and subject matter. The subject matter jurisdiction
15 of Division K is limited, under the provisions of Article V, Section 15(A) of the
16 Constitution of Louisiana, to family and juvenile matters as provided by law. For
17 purposes of this Subsection, "family matters" shall include all actions arising under
18 Titles V and VII of Book I and Title VI of Book III of the Louisiana Civil Code,
19 adoptions arising under the Louisiana Civil Code and the Louisiana Children's Code,
20 actions involving protection from family violence pursuant to R.S. 46:2131 et seq.,
21 and actions for enforcement, collection of support, and paternity pursuant to R.S.
22 46:236.5. The jurisdiction or term of office of any other judge of the district shall
23 not be affected or reduced by the creation of this judgeship.

24 D.(1) Should a vacancy occur prior to December 31, 2014, in Division G or
25 H, the judges of the Twenty-First Judicial District may, by en banc order, assign and
26 transfer all family matters as provided by law to either or both divisions wherein
27 there is a vacancy, through December 31, 2014.

28 (2) For the purposes of this Subsection, a vacancy shall be created by death,
29 resignation, retirement, or any other reason.

1 E. The judges and their successors created by this Section shall be elected
 2 at large and shall have jurisdiction throughout the district. The judges shall be
 3 elected for a six-year term at the congressional election held in 2014 and every sixth
 4 year thereafter.

5 F. The judges and their successors created by this Section shall receive the
 6 same compensation and expense allowances, payable from the same sources and in
 7 the same manner, as are provided for other judges of the Twenty-First Judicial
 8 District.

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

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____