

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

House Bill No. 13 by Representative Greene

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by the House

Present constitution requires that a judge of the supreme court, a court of appeal, district court, family court, parish court, or court having solely juvenile jurisdiction has been admitted to the practice of law in the state of La. for at least five years prior to his election.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the qualifications necessary to run for judicial office require that a person shall have been admitted to the practice of law for at least the number of years specified as follows:

- (1) For a parish court, municipal court, or traffic court - 5 years.
- (2) For a family, drug, juvenile, or district court - 8 years
- (3) For the supreme court or court of appeals - 10 years

Present constitution requires a judge to have been domiciled in his district, circuit, or parish for the two years preceding his election and prohibits a judge from practicing law.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the requirement as to domicile in a district, circuit, or parish from two years to one year preceding his election.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 7, 2006.

Effective Jan. 1, 2007. Applicable to any person who qualifies for election to the office of judge on or after Jan. 1, 2007.

(Amends Const. Art. V, §24)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by the Senate

Senate Committee Amendments to the re-reengrossed bill.

1. Increases the length of time a person must have been admitted to practice law in the state before being elected as a judge to an enumerated court from five years to ten years as proposed in the original draft of HB 13.
2. Changes the election date from November 7, 2006 to September 30, 2006.

Senate Floor Amendments to the re-reengrossed bill.

1. Changes the effective date from being applicable to any person who qualifies for election on or after January 1, 2007, to any person who is elected to the office of judge on and after January 1, 2008.
2. Provides that the provisions requiring an attorney to have been admitted to the practice of law in the state for 10 years shall not apply to a person who has served as a judge in any court of competent jurisdiction for five years and more.

Digest of Bill as Proposed by Conference Committee

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Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the qualifications necessary to run for judicial office require that a person shall have been admitted to the practice of law for at least the number of years specified as follows:

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- (2) For a district court, family court, parish court, or court having solely juvenile jurisdiction - 8 years

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(Amends Const. Art. V, §24)