



Jeff Landry  
Governor

State of Louisiana  
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June 20, 2024

The Honorable Cameron Henry  
President of the Senate  
900 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Yolanda Dixon  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
900 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Basement  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**RECEIVED**

JUN 20 2024

SENATE  
SECRETARY'S  
OFFICE

RE: Senate Bill Number 68 of the 2024 Regular Session by Senator Thomas Pressly

Dear President Henry and Secretary Dixon:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 68 of the 2024 Regular Session.

This bill would require the Louisiana Supreme Court to appoint an ad hoc judge in certain election matters, including objections to candidacy, election contests, and recall petitions with respect to local and municipal offices, as well as nonstatewide proposition elections. These ad hoc judges must serve or have served in judicial districts not adjacent to the district in which the action was instituted.

Current law already provides for the grounds of a recusal of a judge of a trial or appellate court. La. C.C.P. art. 151. Existing law also provides for certain disclosures by judges in a trial or appellate court.

More importantly, judges in our state are elected. La. Const. art. V, § 22. Judges should be accountable to the people, and the people expect their cases to be heard by the judges who they elected. Should any conflicts arise, existing law is sufficient to protect the parties involved. There is no need for this law to apply to every such election matter described in this bill. This would not result in judicial efficiency and would possibly cause more strain on our state's active and retired judges.

Further, I believe this bill creates a separation of powers issue, and the judiciary is in the best position to determine when such an ad hoc judge is necessary.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 68 will not become law.

Sincerely,



Jeff Landry  
Governor

Enclosure: Returned Senate Bill 68