The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 81 Original | 2026 Regular Session | Morris

Present law provides that a defendant in a noncapital case may knowingly, intelligently, irrevocably, and unilaterally waive his right to a jury trial up to 45 days prior to the commencement of trial. Present law further provides that he may, with the consent of the district attorney, waive his right to a jury trial within 45 days of the commencement of trial.

Proposed law provides that a defendant in a noncapital case may waive his right to a jury trial at any time prior to the commencement of trial with the written consent of the prosecuting authority.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Effective only if the proposed amendment to La. Const. Art. I, Sec. 17(A) which originated as Senate Bill No. ____ of the 2026 Regular Session is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 780(C))