

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 279

BY REPRESENTATIVE EGAN

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides relative to trial of misdemeanors

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A), relative to trial without  
3 jury; to provide for the trial of misdemeanors; to provide relative to the monetary  
4 threshold for certain misdemeanors which may be tried by the court without a jury;  
5 to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A) is hereby amended and  
8 reenacted to read as follows:

9 Art. 779. Trial of misdemeanors

10 A. A defendant charged with a misdemeanor in which the punishment, as set  
11 forth in the statute defining the offense, may be a fine in excess of ~~one~~ two thousand  
12 five hundred dollars or imprisonment for more than six months shall be tried by a  
13 jury of six jurors, all of whom ~~must~~ shall concur to render a verdict.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall apply both prospectively and retroactively  
16 and shall be applied to all cases pending on the effective date of this Act.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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HB 279 Original

2026 Regular Session

Egan

**Abstract:** Provides for the trial of misdemeanor offenses.

Present law requires a defendant charged with a misdemeanor punishable by a fine in excess of \$1,000 or imprisonment for more than six months to be tried by a jury of six jurors, all of whom must concur to render a verdict.

Proposed law amends present law to change the monetary threshold that must be exceeded to invoke a jury trial from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law applies both prospectively and retroactively to all cases pending on the effective date of proposed law.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 779(A))