

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 443

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

COURTS: Provides relative to the election sections for judgeship of the second district of the First Circuit Court of Appeal

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:312(1)(b) and 312.1(A), relative to the Court of Appeal for
3 the First Circuit; to provide for the organization of districts within the First Circuit;
4 to provide election sections for the second district of the First Circuit; to provide for
5 the assignment of judgeships for election purposes; to provide for the election of
6 judges; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:312(1)(b) and 312.1(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §312. Courts of appeal; circuits and districts

11 There shall be five court of appeal circuits, which shall be subdivided into
12 districts as follows:

13 1.

14 * * *

15 (b) Districts of first circuit. (i) The parishes of Ascension, Assumption,
16 Iberville, Lafourche, Pointe Coupee, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and West Baton Rouge
17 shall compose the first district of the first circuit. The first district shall be further
18 divided into two election sections.

(aa) Election section one shall be composed of Ascension Parish, Assumption Parish, Iberville Parish, Pointe Coupee Parish, and West Baton Rouge Parish.

(bb) Election section two shall be composed of Lafourche Parish, St. Mary Parish, and Terrebonne Parish.

(ii) The parish of East Baton Rouge shall compose the second district of the first circuit. The second district shall be further divided into two election sections.

(aa) Election section one is composed of Precincts 1-8, 1-12, 1-34, 1-35, 1-39, 1-40, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43, 1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-56, 1-59, 1-64, 1-65, 1-66, 1-69, 1-73, 1-74, 1-75, 1-76, 1-79, 1-80, 1-89, 1-97, 1-98, 1-99, 1-105, 1-106, 1-107, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-33, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-9, 3-10, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-20, 3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-25, 3-26, 3-29, 3-30, 3-31, 3-32, 3-33, 3-34, 3-35, 3-36, 3-37, 3-38, 3-39, 3-40, 3-41, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-46, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49, 3-50, 3-51, 3-52, 3-53, 3-54, 3-55, 3-56, 3-57, 3-58, 3-59, 3-60, 3-61, 3-62, 3-63, 3-64, 3-65, 3-66, 3-67, 3-68, 3-69, 3-70, 3-71, 3-72, 3-73, 3-74, 3-75, and 3-76 of East Baton Rouge Parish.

(bb) Election section two is composed of Precincts 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-13, 1-14, 1-15, 1-16, 1-18, 1-19, 1-20, 1-21, 1-22, 1-23, 1-24, 1-25, 1-26, 1-27, 1-28, 1-29, 1-30, 1-31, 1-32, 1-33, 1-36, 1-37, 1-38, 1-44, 1-45, 1-46, 1-50, 1-51, 1-52, 1-53, 1-54, 1-55, 1-57, 1-58, 1-60, 1-61, 1-62, 1-63, 1-67, 1-70, 1-71, 1-72, 1-77, 1-78, 1-81, 1-82, 1-83, 1-84, 1-85, 1-86, 1-87, 1-88, 1-90, 1-91, 1-92, 1-93, 1-94, 1-95, 1-96, 1-100, 1-101, 1-102, 1-103, 1-104, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 3-8, 3-11, 3-24, 3-27, 3-28, and 3-42 of East Baton Rouge Parish.

(iii) The parishes of East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, and West Feliciana shall compose the third district of the first circuit.

* * *

§312.1. Circuit court of appeal; domicile; number of judges; election

A.(1) The Court of Appeal for the First Circuit, domiciled in the city of Baton Rouge, shall have twelve judges. Four judges shall be elected from each of the three districts composing the circuit by the qualified electors of each district, respectively.

(2) ~~However, in~~ In the first district, one judge, Division C, shall be elected from election section one by the qualified electors of election section one, and one judge, Division A, shall be elected from election section two by the qualified electors of election section two. The remaining two judges in the first district, Divisions B and D, shall be elected by the qualified electors of the entire first district.

(3) In the second district, two judges, Divisions A and B, shall be elected from election section one by the qualified electors of election section one, and two judges, Divisions C and D, shall be elected from election section two by the qualified electors of election section two.

* * *

Section 2.(A) Each judge of the second district in office on the effective date of this Act shall be the judge for the division to which he was elected and may complete the term for which he was elected.

(B)(1) The successor to the office of a judge of the second district shall be elected from the election section to which the division is assigned as provided by R.S. 13:312.1. The election shall be from the election section composed as provided by R.S. 13:312.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, there shall be no requirement that a judge be a resident of the election section from which he is elected; however, the judge shall be a resident of the second district of the Court of Appeal for the First Circuit, in accordance with law.

Section 3.(A) The precincts referenced in this Act are those contained in the file named "2026 Precinct Shapefiles (01-27-2026)" available on the website of the Legislature of Louisiana on the effective date of this Section. The 2026 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line

1 Shapefiles for the State of Louisiana as those filed have been modified and validated through
2 the data verification program of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana
3 Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through January 27, 2026, to the Legislature
4 of Louisiana by parish governing authorities pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:532 and
5 532.1.

6 (B) When a precinct referenced in this Act has been subdivided by action of the
7 parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish
8 governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with the provisions of R.S.
9 18:532.1, the enumeration in this Act of the general precinct designation shall include all
10 nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof, however such subdivisions may be
11 designated.

12 (C) The territorial limits of the districts as provided in this Act shall continue in
13 effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by
14 the parish governing authority.

15 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

HB 443 Original

2026 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Provides for an additional election section in the second district of the First Circuit Court of Appeal; effective upon signature of the governor for all purposes.

Statistical summaries of proposed law including maps illustrating proposed district boundaries accompany this digest. *(Attached to the bill version on the internet.)*

Present law provides for composition of the First Circuit Court of Appeal. Provides that the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafourche, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana shall compose the first circuit. Further provides that the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Lafourche, Pointe Coupee,

St. Mary, Terrebonne, and West Baton Rouge shall compose the first district of the first circuit. The parish of East Baton Rouge shall compose the second district of the first circuit.

Present law provides that the first circuit shall be composed of twelve judges. Provides that four judges shall be elected from the second district of the first circuit by the qualified electors thereof. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the second district is divided into two subdistricts. Further provides Subdistrict one shall elect judges for Divisions A, B, and C. Subdistrict two shall elect a judge for Division D.

Proposed law divides the second district into two election sections. Further provides that two judges will be elected from election section one for Divisions A and B, and two judges will be elected from election section two for Divisions C and D.

Proposed law provides that each judge of the second district in office on the effective date of this Act will be judge for the election section, subdistrict having the same designation as the election section, subdistrict from which the justice was elected and may complete the term for which he was elected. Further provides that the successor to the office of a judge of the second district will be elected from the election section assigned to that office as provided by proposed law.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts contained in the file named "2026 Precinct Shapefiles (01-27-2026)" available on the legislature's website. The 2026 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the state of La. as validated through the data verification program of the La. legislature. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with present law, the enumeration of the general precinct designation shall include all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides that the territorial limits of the districts as enacted shall continue in effect without change regardless of any subsequent change made to the precinct by the parish governing authority.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:312(1)(b) and 312.1(A))

Plan Statistics

Plan: HLS 26RS-225 (Marcelle)

<u>Districts:</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Ideal Population</u>	<u>Absolute Deviation</u>	<u>Relative Deviation</u>
ES1	2	227,271	228,390	-1,119	-0.490%
ES2	2	229,510	228,390	1,120	0.490%
Grand Total:	4	456,781	456,780		
Ideal Population Per Member:		114195		<i>Ideal - Actual:</i> <i>Remainder:</i> <i>Unassigned Population:</i> -1 1 0	
Number of Districts for Plan Type:		2			
Range of District Populations:		227,271 to 229,510			
Absolute Mean Deviation:		1,120			
Absolute Range:		-1,119 to 1,120			
Absolute Overall Range:		2,239			
Relative Mean Deviation:		0.49%			
Relative Range:		-0.49% to 0.49%			
Relative Overall Range:		0.98%			

Total Population

Plan: HLS 26RS-225 (Marcelle)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	Total Hispanic	VAP Total	VAP White	VAP Black	VAP Asian	VAP American Indian	VAP Other	VAP Hispanic Total
ES1	227,271	144,597	52,986	10,877	3,166	15,645	18,072	179,541	119,152	38,528	8,236	2,493	11,132	12,691
	100.000%	63.623%	23.314%	4.786%	1.393%	6.884%	7.952%	100.000%	66.365%	21.459%	4.587%	1.389%	6.200%	7.069%
ES2	229,510	51,472	160,412	5,548	1,561	10,517	12,479	176,071	44,729	118,262	4,363	1,254	7,463	8,848
	100.000%	22.427%	69.893%	2.417%	0.680%	4.582%	5.437%	100.000%	25.404%	67.167%	2.478%	0.712%	4.239%	5.025%
Grand Total	456,781	196,069	213,398	16,425	4,727	26,162	30,551	355,612	163,881	156,790	12,599	3,747	18,595	21,539
	100.000%	42.924%	46.718%	3.596%	1.035%	5.727%	6.688%	100.000%	46.084%	44.090%	3.543%	1.054%	5.229%	6.057%

Voter Registration

Plan: HLS 26RS-225 (Marcelle)

	Reg Total Dec 2025	Reg White Dec 2025	Reg Black Dec 2025	Reg Other Dec 2025	Reg Dem Total Dec 2025	Reg Rep Total Dec 2025	Reg Other Total Dec 2025
ES1	130,509	95,438	25,416	9,655	37,049	56,688	36,772
	72.690%	73.128%	19.475%	7.398%	28.388%	43.436%	28.176%
ES2	106,739	24,316	76,949	5,474	67,214	13,608	25,917
	60.623%	22.781%	72.091%	5.128%	62.970%	12.749%	24.281%
Grand Total	237,248	119,754	102,365	15,129	104,263	70,296	62,689

Splits

Plan: HLS 26RS-225 (Marcelle)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	VAP Total	VAP White	VAP Black	VAP Asian	VAP American Indian	VAP Other	Reg Total Dec 2025	Reg White Dec 2025	Reg Black Dec 2025	Reg Other Dec 2025
ES1																
*East Baton Rouge	227,271	144,597	52,986	10,877	3,166	15,645	179,541	119,152	38,528	8,236	2,493	11,132	130,509	95,438	25,416	9,655
ES1	227,271	144,597	52,986	10,877	3,166	15,645	179,541	119,152	38,528	8,236	2,493	11,132	130,509	95,438	25,416	9,655
	100.000%	63.623%	23.314%	4.786%	1.393%	6.884%	100.000%	66.365%	21.459%	4.587%	1.389%	6.200%	72.690%	73.128%	19.475%	7.398%
ES2																
*East Baton Rouge	229,510	51,472	160,412	5,548	1,561	10,517	176,071	44,729	118,262	4,363	1,254	7,463	106,739	24,316	76,949	5,474
ES2	229,510	51,472	160,412	5,548	1,561	10,517	176,071	44,729	118,262	4,363	1,254	7,463	106,739	24,316	76,949	5,474
	100.000%	22.427%	69.893%	2.417%	0.680%	4.582%	100.000%	25.404%	67.167%	2.478%	0.712%	4.239%	60.623%	22.781%	72.091%	5.128%

HLS 26RS-225 (Marcelle)
East Baton Rouge Parish

