
DIGEST

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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))