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 217 Original | 2026 Regular Session | Morris

Present law provides for the number of judges in Orleans Parish and for the administration of the courts. Provides for the funds and payment from the judicial expense fund.

Proposed law reduces the number of judges for the civil district court in Orleans Parish from fourteen to twelve judges.

Present law provides for twelve judges for the criminal district court in Orleans Parish.

Proposed law provides that on or before March 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, the judicial council is to study the need for the number of judges on the criminal district court.

Proposed law provides that if the supreme court certifies a recommendation to the legislature to abolish a judgeship based on the judicial council report, then provisions concerning calling of a special election to fill a vacancy for that judgeship are to be temporarily suspended for a vacancy arising thereafter by resignation, retirement, or removal to allow the legislature to consider the recommendation. Provides that for purposes of filling the particular judgeship is to be treated in the same manner as if it had been abolished prior to the deadline for calling the special election to fill its vacancy.

Proposed law provides that if the legislature fails to act on the particular recommendation at the next regular session it can repeal or reallocate the particular judgeship on the thirtieth day following session adjournment and the judgeship shall no longer be considered abolished.

Proposed law repeals provisions dividing the civil district court into seven divisions and provisions regarding an additional commissioner in the criminal district court of Orleans Parish.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 13:1136, 1137(B), 1302, 1312(A), (B), (C), (D)(1), 1335, 1337(A) and (B), 1343(A), 1344(A) and (D), 1347(A)(3), (B), and (C), 1383, 1384, 1595, 1595.1, 2151(D), 2151.4(D), 2492(A)(1), (5), and (6); adds enact R.S. 13:1312(E) and (F) and 2492(A)(8); repeals R.S. 13:1304, and 1347(D) and 2492(A)(7)(b))