

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 519

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

COURTS: Provides relative to the appointment of a special master by a trial court

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:4165(G), relative to the appointment of a special master; to provide for the
3 application of the code of judicial conduct to special masters; and to provide for
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:4165(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §4165. Special masters; appointment; duties and powers; compensation; code of
8 judicial conduct

9 * * *

10 G. For complex causes of action with multiple cases sharing common
11 questions of fact, when consolidated pursuant to an order or rules adopted by the
12 supreme court, any appointment of a special master by a trial court pursuant to this
13 Section shall comply with the ethical requirements of the Code of Judicial Conduct
14 as applicable and the requirements of Fed. Civ. R. 53 as to the appointment and
15 disqualification of a master, except to the extent those requirements are specifically
16 inconsistent with state law. Any appointment as described in this Subsection shall
17 also be subject to the provisions of Paragraphs (2) and (6) of Subsection F of this
18 Section.

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 519 Original

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Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides that a special master in complex civil litigation shall be subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct

Present law provides for the appointment of a special master in any civil action where complicated legal or factual issues are presented or exceptional circumstances of the case warrant such appointment upon consent of all parties.

Proposed law provides that a special master appointed by a trial court shall be subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct.

(Adds R.S. 13:4165(G))