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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 518 Original

2026 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

**Abstract:** Provides for the composition of two election sections in the City Court of Lake Charles and provides for the assignment of judgeships to those election sections for election purposes.

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

Present law provides that the City Court of Lake Charles is domiciled in the city of Lake Charles and that the territorial jurisdiction of the court extends through the city and ward or wards wherein the city is located, as extended from time to time. Provides that the court has two city judges and one city marshal. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law creates two election sections in the City Court of Lake Charles. Provides that one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of election section one, and one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of election section two. Provides that the judgeship designated as Division A of the City Court of Lake Charles is assigned to election section two for election purposes. Provides that the judgeship designated as Division B of the City Court of Lake Charles is assigned to election section one for election purposes. Specifies that any election to elect a judge to the court occurring after the effective date of proposed law shall be conducted within the appropriate election section established 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 Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the State of La. as those files have been modified and validated through data verification program of the La. House of Representatives and the La. Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through Jan. 27, 2026, to the Legislature of La. by parish governing authorities.

Proposed law additionally 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 until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Population data in the summaries accompanying this digest are derived from 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Summary File for La. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 13:1952(13))