

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 532

BY REPRESENTATIVE MENA

CRIMINAL/JURY TRIALS: (Constitutional Amendment) Requires unanimous jury verdicts for noncapital felonies committed prior to January 1, 2019

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article I, Section 17(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to jury trials in criminal cases; to require the unanimous vote of twelve jurors in all felony cases for offenses committed prior to January 1, 2019; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article I, Section 17(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§17. Jury Trial in Criminal Cases; Joinder of Felonies; Mode of Trial

Section 17.(A) Jury Trial in Criminal Cases. A criminal case ~~in which~~ where the punishment may be capital shall be tried before a jury of twelve persons, all of whom must concur to render a verdict. ~~A case for an offense committed prior to January 1, 2019, in which the punishment is necessarily confinement at hard labor shall be tried before a jury of twelve persons, ten of whom must concur to render a verdict.~~ A case for an offense committed before, on, or after January 1, 2019, in ~~which~~ where the punishment is necessarily confinement at hard labor shall be tried before a jury of twelve persons, all of whom must concur to render a verdict. A case ~~in which~~ where the punishment may be confinement at hard labor or confinement without hard labor for more than six months shall be tried before a jury of six

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

Present constitution requires that a case involving a noncapital felony that is committed on or after Jan. 1, 2019, be tried before a jury of 12 persons. Further requires that all 12 jurors concur to render a verdict.

Proposed constitutional amendment amends present constitution to include the requirement that all 12 jurors concur to render a verdict for a case involving a noncapital felony that was committed prior to Jan. 1, 2019.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 3, 2026.

(Amends Const. Art. I, §17(A))