

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 598

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

COURTS: Requires a final decision rendered by a court to be binding on all courts of equal jurisdiction

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 1-D of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 13:70 and 70.1, relative to judicial decisions of Louisiana courts; to provide
4 for the binding effect of decisions rendered by courts of equal jurisdiction; and to
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Chapter 1-D of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
8 comprised of R.S. 13:70 and 70.1, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 CHAPTER 1-D. LAW OF THE COURT

10 §70. Legislative findings; intent

11 A. The legislature finds that conflicting decisions of courts of the same
12 jurisdiction create a conflict in the judicial system of our state. In order to provide
13 for stability and predictability to litigants and judges as well as providing for respect
14 for a court's prior decisions, the legislature finds that a law requiring the adherence
15 to a previous decision of a court of equal jurisdiction should be adopted.

16 B. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to adopt the legal principal of
17 "law of the circuit doctrine" which provides that a decision by a court cannot be
18 overruled by a court of equal jurisdiction.

- 1 §70.1. Judicial decisions; binding effect
- 2 Any judicial decision in a Louisiana court shall be binding on all courts of
- 3 equal jurisdiction.
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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)]

HB 598 Original

2026 Regular Session

Newell

Abstract: Establishes that a final decision of a court is binding on all courts of equal jurisdiction.

Proposed law establishes the "Law of the Court" by adopting the "law of the circuit doctrine" for all courts in La.

Proposed law provides that any judicial decision in a La. state court is binding on all courts of equal jurisdiction.

(Adds R.S. 13:70 and 70.1)