

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 302

BY SENATOR JENKINS

COURTS. Provides for the election sections in the First Judicial District Court and for one judge to be elected at large. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:477(1) and 621.1 and to repeal Section 3(E) of Act No. 145  
3 of the 1994 Third Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, relative to  
4 the First Judicial District Court; to provide for the election sections from which  
5 judges are elected; to provide for the assignment of judgeships to election sections;  
6 to provide for one judgeship to be elected at large; to provide for effectiveness; and  
7 to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 13:477(1) and 621.1 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
10 follows:

11 §477. Judicial districts

12 There shall be forty-one judicial districts in the state and each district shall  
13 be composed as follows:

14 \* \* \*

15 (1) The parish of Caddo shall compose the First District. The First District  
16 shall consist of three elections sections **with one judgeship that shall be elected**  
17 **from the district at large**. Election section one shall consist of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 5,

1 6, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 53, 54, 55, 57,  
 2 58, 60, 61, 65, 66, 67, 71, 73A & 73B, 80, 81, 82A & 82B, 83A & 83B, 84, 85A &  
 3 85B, 86, 96, 98, 130, 131, 135, 137A & 137B, and 140 of Caddo Parish. Election  
 4 section two shall consist of Precincts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,  
 5 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 35, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 56A & 56B, 59, 62, 63, 64,  
 6 68, 70, 72, 74, 76A & 76B, 77, 99, 126, 127, 128, and 129 of Caddo Parish. Election  
 7 section three shall consist of Precincts 4, 69, 75, 78, 79, 87, 88, 89A & 89B & 89C,  
 8 90A & 90B, 91A & 91B, 92, 93, 94, 95A & 95B, 97A & 97B, 122, 123, 124, 125,  
 9 132A & 132B, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 150,  
 10 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, and 159 of Caddo Parish.

11 \* \* \*

12 §621.1. First Judicial District

13 The First Judicial District Court shall have eleven judges. Four judges shall  
 14 be elected from election section one, three judges shall be elected from election  
 15 section two, ~~and four~~ **three** judges shall be elected from election section three, ~~and~~  
 16 **one judge shall be elected at large. The judgeships designated as Divisions B, D,**  
 17 **G, and J are assigned to election section one of the First Judicial District; the**  
 18 **judgeships designated as C, H, and I are assigned to election section two of the**  
 19 **First Judicial District; and the judgeships designated as A, E, and K are**  
 20 **assigned to election section three of the First Judicial District; and the judgeship**  
 21 **designated as Division F shall be elected at large.**

22 Section 2. Section 3(E) of Act No. 145 of the 1994 Third Extraordinary Session of  
 23 the Legislature of Louisiana is hereby repealed.

24 Section 3. The election to fill the judgeship currently designated as Division F shall  
 25 be held at the regularly scheduled election date as an at large election provided the judgeship  
 26 is vacated due to the death, resignation, retirement, or incapacity of the judge currently  
 27 serving in Division F or if the judge currently serving in Division F does not run for re-  
 28 election. Any subsequent election for a judge to Division F shall be held from the District  
 29 at large if the currently presiding judgeship has been vacated due to the death, resignation,

1 retirement, or incapacity of the judge.

2 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
3 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
4 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
5 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
6 effective on the following such approval.

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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)]

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DIGEST

SB 302 Original                      2026 Regular Session                      Jenkins

Present law provides that the 1st Judicial District Court is comprised of Caddo Parish. Provides that the 1st Judicial District Court has 11 judges.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the 1st Judicial District Court shall consist of three election sections.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that there shall be one at-large judgeship from the existing election sections.

Present law (Act 145 of the 1994 3rd Extraordinary Session and Act 241 of the 1997 Regular Session) provides that each judgeship be designated as a division, and that each division is assigned to one election section as follows:

- (1) Election Section 1: Divisions B, D, G, and J
- (2) Election Section 2: Divisions C, H, and I
- (3) Election Section 3: Divisions A, E, F, and K

Proposed law retains present law but designates Division F as an at-large judgeship.

Proposed law provides that the current judge serving in Division F shall continue to be elected in Section 3 until such time as that judge vacates that seat due to resignation, retirement, incapacity, or if the judge does not run for re-election.

Proposed law provides that the next subsequent election for Division F in which the currently elected judge has vacated that judgeship or is not running for re-election shall trigger Division F to be an at-large judgeship.

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

(Amends R.S. 13:477(1) and 621.1; repeals §3(E) of Act No. 145 of 1994 3rd E.S.)