

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 475

BY SENATOR MILLER

CIVIL PROCEDURE. Provides relative to fees for service of process. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 1201(D), 1672(C), and 3955(D) and to enact Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 1201(E) and (F), and 3955(E) and (F), relative to service of process; to provide with respect to service of citation; to provide relative to payment of fees for service of citation in civil actions; to provide relative to a statement of the initial fees and of additional fees for request for service of citation; to provide relative to civil procedure; to provide relative to legal delays; to provide relative to payment of fees for service of citation in certain circumstances; to provide with respect to involuntary dismissal; to provide for prospective application; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 1201(D), 1672(C), and 3955(D) are hereby amended and reenacted and Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 1201(E) and (F), and 3955(E) and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 1201. Citation; waiver; delay for service

* * *

D. If not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be

1 considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by
2 this Article and all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation are
3 paid within the times provided by Paragraph E of this Article, notwithstanding
4 insufficient or erroneous service.

5 E.(1) Upon receipt of a request for service of citation pursuant to this
6 Article, the clerk of court shall provide to the filing party a confirmation of
7 receipt of the request and a statement of the initial fees for the requested
8 service, which shall be paid within the ninety-day period for requesting service
9 in accordance with Paragraph C of this Article.

10 (2) If additional fees are owed, the clerk of court shall provide to the
11 filing party a statement of additional fees for the requested service, which shall
12 be paid within the ninety-day period for requesting service in accordance with
13 Paragraph C of this Article or within thirty days from the date of receipt of the
14 statement of additional fees from the clerk of court, whichever period is longer.

15 F. The provisions of this Article regarding the payment of fees for service
16 of citation shall not apply to litigants permitted to litigate without the payment
17 of costs.

18 * * *

19 Art. 1672. Involuntary dismissal

20 * * *

21 C. A judgment dismissing an action without prejudice shall be rendered as
22 to a person named as a defendant for whom service has not been requested or for
23 whom all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation have not been
24 paid within the ~~time~~ times prescribed by Article 1201~~(C)~~ or 3955 upon the
25 sustaining of a declinatory exception filed by such defendant, or upon contradictory
26 motion of any other party, unless good cause is shown why service could not be
27 requested or all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation were
28 not paid, in which case the court may order that service be effected and that a
29 specific amount of fees for service of citation be paid within a specified time.

1 * * *

2 Art. 3955. Service of petition

3 * * *

4 D. If not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be
5 considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by
6 this Article **and all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation are**
7 **paid within the times provided by this Article**, notwithstanding insufficient or
8 erroneous service.

9 **E.(1) Upon receipt of a request for service of citation pursuant to this**
10 **Article, the clerk of court shall provide to the filing party a confirmation of**
11 **receipt of the request and a statement of the initial fees for the requested**
12 **service, which shall be paid within the ninety-day period for requesting service**
13 **in accordance with Paragraph A of this Article.**

14 **(2) If additional fees are owed, the clerk of court shall provide to the**
15 **filing party a statement of additional fees for the requested service, which shall**
16 **be paid within the ninety-day period for requesting service in accordance with**
17 **Paragraph A of this Article or within thirty days from the date of receipt of the**
18 **statement of additional fees from the clerk of court, whichever period is longer.**

19 **F. The provisions of this Article regarding the payment of fees for service**
20 **of citation shall not apply to litigants permitted to litigate without the payment**
21 **of costs.**

22 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall have prospective application only.

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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Present law (C.C.P. Art. 1201) provides that citation and service are essential in all civil actions except summary and executory proceedings, divorce actions under present law (C.C. Art.102), and proceedings under the Children's Code. Further provides that without citation and service, all proceedings are absolutely null. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (C.C.P. Art 1201(C)) provides that service of the citation shall be requested on all named defendants within 90 days of commencement of the action. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that when a supplemental or amended petition is filed naming any additional defendant, service of citation shall be requested within 90 days of its filing, and the additional defendant shall be served with the original petition and the supplemental and amended petition. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the requirement provided by present law (C.C.P. Art. 1201(C)) shall be expressly waived by a defendant unless the defendant files, in accordance with the provisions of present law (C.C.P. Art. 928), a declinatory exception of insufficiency of service of process specifically alleging the failure to timely request service of citation or a contradictory motion in accordance with present law (C.C.P. Art. 1672(C)). Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 1201(D)) provides that if not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by present law, notwithstanding insufficient or erroneous service.

Proposed law (C.C.P. Art. 1201(D)) provides that if not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by present law and all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation are paid within the times provided by proposed law, notwithstanding insufficient or erroneous service.

Proposed law provides that upon receipt of a request for service of citation pursuant to present law, the clerk of court shall provide to the filing party a confirmation of receipt of the request and a statement of the initial fees for the requested service, which shall be paid within the 90 day period for requesting service in accordance with present law.

Proposed law provides that if additional fees are owed, the clerk of court shall provide to the filing party a statement of additional fees for the requested service, which shall be paid within the 90 day period for requesting service in accordance with present law or within 30 days from the date of receipt of the statement of additional fees from the clerk of court, whichever period is longer.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of present law regarding the payment of fees for service of citation do not apply to litigants permitted to litigate without the payment of costs.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 1672) provides that a judgment dismissing an action shall be rendered upon application of any party, when the plaintiff fails to appear on the day set for trial. Further provides that in such case, the court shall determine whether the judgment of dismissal shall be with or without prejudice. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (C.C.P. Art 1672(C)) provides that a judgment dismissing an action without prejudice shall be rendered as to a person named as a defendant for whom service has not been requested within the time prescribed by present law (C.C.P. Art. 1201(C) or C.C.P. Art. 3955) upon the sustaining of a declinatory exception filed by such defendant, or upon contradictory motion of any other party, unless good cause is shown why service could not be requested, in which case the court may order that service be effected within a specified time.

Proposed law (C.C.P. Art. 1672(C)) provides that a judgment dismissing an action without prejudice shall be rendered as to a person named as a defendant for whom service has not been requested or for whom all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation have not been paid within the times prescribed by present law (C.C.P. Art. 1201 or C.C.P. Art. 3955) upon the sustaining of a declinatory exception filed by such defendant, or upon

contradictory motion of any other party, unless good cause is shown why service could not be requested or all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation were not paid, in which case the court may order that service be effected and that a specific amount of fees for service of citation be paid within a specified time.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3955) provides that when a petition for divorce is filed in accordance with present law (C.C. Art. 102), service of the petition shall be requested on the defendant within 90 days of the filing of the petition. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 3955(D)) provides that if not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by present law, notwithstanding insufficient or erroneous service.

Proposed law provides that if not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by present law and all fees specified by the clerk of court for service of citation are paid within the times provided by present law, notwithstanding insufficient or erroneous service.

Proposed law provides that if not waived, a request for service of citation upon the defendant shall be considered timely if requested on the defendant within the time period provided by present law, notwithstanding insufficient or erroneous service.

Proposed law provides that upon receipt of a request for service of citation pursuant to present law, the clerk of court shall provide to the filing party a confirmation of receipt of the request and a statement of the initial fees for the requested service, which shall be paid within the 90 day period for requesting service in accordance with present law.

Proposed law provides that if additional fees are owed, the clerk of court shall provide to the filing party a statement of additional fees for the requested service, which shall be paid within the 90 day period for requesting service in accordance with present law or within 30 days from the date of receipt of the statement of additional fees from the clerk of court, whichever period is longer.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of present law regarding the payment of fees for service of citation do not apply to litigants permitted to litigate without the payment of costs.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall have prospective application only.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends C.C.P. Arts. 1201(D), 1672(C), and 3955(D); adds C.C.P. Arts. 1201(E) and (F) and 3955(E) and (F))