

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 519

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

COURTS: Provides relative to the appointment of a special master by a trial court

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:4165(G), relative to the appointment of a special master; to provide for the  
3 application of the code of judicial conduct to special masters; and to provide for  
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:4165(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §4165. Special masters; appointment; duties and powers; compensation; code of  
8 judicial conduct

9 \* \* \*

10 G. For complex causes of action with multiple cases sharing common  
11 questions of fact, when consolidated pursuant to an order or rules adopted by the  
12 supreme court, any appointment of a special master by a trial court pursuant to this  
13 Section shall comply with the ethical requirements of the Code of Judicial Conduct  
14 as applicable and the requirements of Fed. Civ. R. 53 as to the appointment and  
15 disqualification of a master, except to the extent those requirements are specifically  
16 inconsistent with state law. Any appointment as described in this Subsection shall  
17 also be subject to the provisions of Paragraphs (2) and (6) of Subsection F of this  
18 Section. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of this  
19 Subsection apply to those complex cases designated or approved under rules adopted  
20 for this purpose by the Louisiana Supreme Court with all appointments under this  
21 Subsection complying with those rules and the ethical requirements of this  
22 Subsection.

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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 519 Engrossed

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Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Requires a special master in complex civil litigation to comply with ethical requirements of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Present law provides for the appointment of a special master in any civil action where complicated legal or factual issues are presented or exceptional circumstances of the case warrant such appointment upon consent of all parties.

Proposed law retains present law and requires a special master appointed by a trial court to comply with ethical requirements of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Provides for exceptions.

Proposed law provides that any cases designated as complex pursuant to rules adopted by the La. Supreme Court are subject to the supreme court's rules regarding complex cases and the provisions of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 13:4165(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Provide that cases designated as complex pursuant to La. Supreme Court rules are subject to the supreme court's rules and the provisions of proposed law.