

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 52

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides relative to trial of misdemeanors

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A), relative to trial without  
3 jury; to provide for the trial of misdemeanors; to provide for certain misdemeanors  
4 which may be tried by the court without a jury; to provide for prospective and  
5 retroactive application; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A) is hereby amended and  
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 Art. 779. Trial of misdemeanors

11 A. A defendant charged with a misdemeanor in which the punishment, as set  
12 forth in the statute defining the offense, may be a fine in excess of ~~one~~ two thousand  
13 five hundred dollars or imprisonment for more than six months must be tried by a  
14 jury of six jurors, all of whom ~~must~~ shall concur to render a verdict.

15 \* \* \*

16 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be given prospective application and  
17 retroactive application to June 8, 2025.

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

---

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 52 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Villio

**Abstract:** Provides for the trial of misdemeanor offenses.

Present law provides that a defendant charged with a misdemeanor in which the punishment, as set forth in present law defining the offense, may be a fine in excess of \$1,000 or imprisonment for more than six months, shall be tried by a jury of six jurors, all of whom must concur to render a verdict.

Present law further provides that a defendant charged with any other misdemeanor shall be tried by the court without a jury.

Proposed law amends present law to change the monetary threshold that must be exceeded to invoke a jury trial from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law applies prospectively and retroactively to June 8, 2025.

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

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 779(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Change the monetary threshold that must be exceeded to invoke a jury trial from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
2. Change the maximum financial penalty for a non-jury trial misdemeanor from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove proposed law relative to the designation of certain misdemeanors as non-jury trial misdemeanors.