

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 476

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

CIVIL PROCEDURE. Provides relative to garnishment. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 2412(A) and 2413(B) and (C), relative to garnishments; to provide relative to service of notice upon the garnishee; to provide relative to notice of failure to answer interrogatories in certain circumstances; to provide relative to civil procedure and legal delays; to provide for certain notice requirements; to provide relative to effect of the garnishee's failure to answer; to provide relative to cost and attorney fees; to provide relative to the garnishee's failure to appear; to provide for burden of proof; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Arts. 2412(A) and 2413(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 2412. Method of service; delay for answering

A.(1) The sheriff shall serve upon the garnishee the citation and a copy of the petition and of the interrogatories, together with a notice that a seizure is thereby effected against any property of or indebtedness to the judgment debtor. **The notice shall include a notice in boldface, stating the following: "The failure to file into**

1 the court record within thirty days your sworn answer to these interrogatories
 2 may cause you to be personally responsible for the entire amount owed by the
 3 judgment debtor."

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5 Art. 2413. Effect of garnishee's failure to answer

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7 B.(1) Judgment shall be rendered against the garnishee on trial of the motion
 8 unless he proves that he had no property of and was not indebted to the judgment
 9 debtor. If on the trial of such motion, the garnishee proves the amount of such
 10 property or indebtedness, the judgment against the garnishee shall be limited to the
 11 delivery of the property or payment of the indebtedness, as provided in Article 2415.

12 (2) If the judgment was rendered pursuant to this Paragraph against the
 13 garnishee as a result of his failure to appear after proper service, the garnishee
 14 shall have thirty days from service of the judgment to move for a new trial.

15 (3) Any motion for a new trial pursuant to Subparagraph (2) of this
 16 Paragraph shall be granted only if it includes an affidavit affirming the facts
 17 that the garnishee is required to prove under Subparagraph (4) of this
 18 Paragraph.

19 (4) At any new trial granted pursuant to this Paragraph, the garnishee
 20 bears the burden of proof that he never had any property of and was never
 21 indebted to the judgment debtor during the pendency of the garnishment
 22 proceeding, or that he has satisfied the judgment to the full extent of the amount
 23 of such property or indebtedness actually in his possession at any time
 24 subsequent to commencement of the garnishment proceeding by service of the
 25 petition upon him.

26 C. Regardless of the decision on the contradictory motion, the court shall
 27 render judgment against the garnishee for the costs and a reasonable attorney fee for
 28 the motion. This shall include an award against the garnishee for the additional
 29 cost and a reasonable attorney fee actually incurred by the judgment creditor

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due to the fault of the garnishee in failing to initially respond.

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)]

DIGEST

SB 476 Engrossed

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Pressly

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 2412) that the sheriff shall serve upon the garnishee the citation and a copy of the petition and of the interrogatories, together with a notice that a seizure is thereby effected against any property of or indebtedness to the judgment debtor.

Proposed law retains present law but requires that the notice includes in boldface, the following: "The failure to file into the court record within 30 days your sworn answer to these interrogatories may cause you to be personally responsible for the entire amount owed by the judgment debtor."

Present law provides that the judgment creditor shall send to the judgment debtor written notice of the filing of the garnishment petition by mail or electronic means. Further provides that the notice provided to the judgment debtor shall have no effect on the validity of the seizure. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (C.C.P. Art. 2413) provides that if the garnishee fails to answer within the delay provided by present law (C.C.P. Art. 2412), the judgment creditor may proceed by contradictory motion against the garnishee for the amount of the unpaid judgment, with interest and costs. Further provides that the failure of the garnishee to answer prior to the filing of such a contradictory motion is prima facie proof that he has property of or is indebted to the judgment debtor to the extent of the judgment, interest, and costs.

Proposed law retains present law. Present law provides that judgment shall be rendered against the garnishee on trial of the motion unless he proves that he had no property of and was not indebted to the judgment debtor. Further provides that if on the trial of such motion, the garnishee proves the amount of such property or indebtedness, the judgment against the garnishee shall be limited to the delivery of the property or payment of the indebtedness, as provided in present law (C.C.P. Art. 2415).

Proposed law provides that if the judgment was rendered pursuant to present law against the garnishee as a result of his failure to appear after proper service, the garnishee shall have 30 days from service of the judgment to move for a new trial.

Proposed law provides that any motion for a new trial granted pursuant to proposed law shall be granted only if it includes an affidavit affirming the facts that the garnishee is required to provide pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that at any new trial granted pursuant to present law, the garnishee bears the burden of proof that he never had any property of and was never indebted to the judgment debtor during the pendency of the garnishment proceeding, or that he has satisfied the judgment to the full extent of the amount of such property or indebtedness actually in his possession at any time subsequent to commencement of the garnishment proceeding by service of the petition upon him.

Present law provides that regardless of the decision on the contradictory motion, the court shall render judgment against the garnishee for the costs and a reasonable attorney fee for the motion. Proposed law retains present law and provides that this include an award against the garnishee for the additional cost and a reasonable attorney fee actually incurred by the

judgment creditor due to the fault of the garnishee in failing to initially respond.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends C.C.P. Arts. 2412(A) and 2413(B) and (C))