

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1252 (Substitute for House Bill No. 1165 by Representative Deshotel)

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

COURTS: Provides relative to the city court system in Avoyelles Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1952(introductory paragraph) and (7), 2488.51(A) through

3 (C), 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59 and to enact R.S. 13:2488.51(F), relative to

4 the city courts of Avoyelles Parish; to provide for the jurisdiction of the city court

5 of Bunkie; to provide for the jurisdiction of the city court of Marksville; to provide

6 for the appellate review of justice of the peace decisions; to provide for the

7 imposition and payment of fees in the city courts of Bunkie and Marksville; and to

8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 13:1952(introductory paragraph) and (7), 2488.51(A) through (C),

11 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.

12 13:2488.51(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1952. Courts created by special legislative Act

14 The following city courts, ~~heretofore~~ created and established by special

15 legislative Act, are hereby recognized and continued in existence and, except as

16 otherwise provided in this Section, ~~their~~ the respective territorial jurisdiction shall

17 extend through the city and ward or wards ~~wherein the city~~ in which ~~they are~~ each

18 court is domiciled is located, as such boundaries may be extended from time to time:

19 * * *

1 §2488.58. Criminal matters; costs

2 A. In all criminal matters, including traffic violation cases, the city judge

3 may assess, in addition to the fine or other penalty imposed, costs of court in an

4 amount not to exceed ~~eight~~ twenty dollars.

5 * * *

6 §2488.59. Civil matters; costs

7 In all civil matters, in addition to any other costs or fees ~~provided by law~~, the

8 city judge may assess an additional cost of court in an amount not to exceed ~~ten~~

9 twenty dollars, except as otherwise provided by law.

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 1252 Original	2026 Regular Session	Deshotel
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Abstract: Provides relative to the city court system in Avoyelles Parish.

Present law provides for one city court judge in Marksville and one city court judge in Bunkie. Both city court judgeships are located in Avoyelles Parish.

Proposed law retains present law but expands the geographical jurisdiction of the Marksville city court to include all of wards one, two, three, four, five, six and eleven of Avoyelles Parish. Further extends the geographical jurisdiction of the Bunkie city court to include wards seven, eight, nine and ten of Avoyelles Parish.

Proposed law provides for both city courts to have a small claims division and concurrent jurisdiction with the 12th Judicial District Court in all criminal misdemeanor cases, civil cases with disputes less than \$50,000, and juvenile matters.

Present law provides for the payment of salaries for a marshal, clerk of court, and deputy clerks, as well as expenses for the operation and maintenance of the courtroom and offices of the city court to be paid by the town of Marksville and the parish of Avoyelles.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the justice of the peace courts and constable courts in wards one, three, four, five, six and eleven to work in conjunction with the city court in Marksville. Further provides that there is no justice of the peace or mayor's court in ward two.

Present law provides for the collection and deposit of fines, forfeitures, penalties, fees, and costs in criminal and civil matters by the city judge in Marksville.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the city judge may seek grants or engage a study for the implementation of an online method of payment of fines and for virtual court appearances. Permits the use of proceeds from the court's criminal fund upon the approval of the city and parish governing authorities.

Present law provides that the city judge may impose a fine in criminal matters of \$8.

Proposed law increases the fine in present law from \$8 to \$20.

Present law provides that the city judge may impose a fine in civil matters not to exceed \$10.

Proposed law increases the fine in present law from \$10 to \$20, except as otherwise provided by law.

(Amends R.S. 13:1952(intro. para.) and (7), 2488.51(A)-(C), 2488.57, 2488.58(A), and 2488.59; Adds R.S. 13:2488.51(F))