

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 C. ~~The city judge and marshal appointed by the governor shall serve until~~
2 ~~their successors are elected by the qualified electors of Ward 2 of Avoyelles Parish,~~
3 ~~Louisiana, at the general election for Representatives in Congress, to be held in~~
4 ~~Louisiana on the first Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 1974,~~
5 ~~and their successors shall be elected thereafter in conformity with the provisions of~~
6 ~~Article VII of Section 51 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 and other applicable~~
7 ~~provisions of the law.~~ The city court shall have a small claims division and shall
8 have concurrent jurisdiction with the Twelfth Judicial District Court in all criminal
9 misdemeanor cases, civil cases with disputes less than fifty thousand dollars, and
10 juvenile matters.

* * *

12 F. All cases appealable from the justice of the peace courts in wards one,
13 three, four, five, six and eleven shall be reviewable and appealable to the city court
14 in the manner as prescribed in the Code of Civil Procedure Article 2081, et seq. and
15 made a matter of record.

* * *

17 §2488.57. Collection of fines, forfeitures, penalties, and costs

18 A. The city judge, or any officer of the city court designated by the city
19 judge, shall collect all fines, forfeitures, penalties, and costs, and all ~~funds so~~
20 collected funds, excluding costs, shall be paid into the town treasury of the town of
21 Marksville when the prosecution is on behalf of the town, and into the parish
22 treasury when the prosecution is on behalf of the state or the parish.

23 B. The city judge may engage a study or seek out grants for the
24 implementation of an online method for the payment of fines and for virtual court
25 appearances. The expenses for any study are to be paid with proceeds from the
26 court's criminal fund upon the approval 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))