

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 263

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:589(E), relative to the magistrate judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District
3 Court; to authorize the magistrate judge to preside over specialty court programs; to
4 define relative to specialty court; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:589(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §589. Fourteenth Judicial District Court; magistrate judge

8 * * *

9 E.(1) Notwithstanding this Section or any other provision of law to the
10 contrary, subject to the approval of the en banc judges of the Fourteenth Judicial
11 District Court, the magistrate judge may preside over a specialty court program and
12 fully adjudicate the related felony charges for those who have pled into or otherwise
13 agreed to participate in a specialty court program.

14 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, "specialty court" means any program
15 designated as a specialty court by the Louisiana Supreme Court including drug court
16 programs, Veterans Court programs, driving while intoxicated court, mental health
17 court, reentry court, domestic abuse court, behavioral health court, or any juvenile
18 specialty court handling matters related to allegations of domestic abuse.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____