

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 748 (SB 217)

2026 Regular Session

Morris

Prior law provided that judges of each division of the civil district court shall appoint a crier for his division and provides for the duties and responsibilities of the crier and the procedures for compensation of each crier.

Existing law retains prior law and provides that for Fiscal Year 2026-27, the judicial expense fund shall reimburse the sheriff for the full amount of compensation of criers. Further requires the reimbursement for the compensation of criers to be subject to an agreement between the executive committee of the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund and the sheriff after Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Prior law provided for the number of judges in Orleans Parish and for the administration of the courts. Provides for the funds and payment from the judicial expense fund.

Prior law provided for 12 judges for the Criminal District Court for the parish of Orleans.

New law reduces the judges from 12 to nine.

New law abolishes Divisions A, E, and J for the Criminal District Court for the parish of Orleans in accordance with new law.

New law provides that no qualifying shall be opened for any successor to a judgeship that is abolished pursuant to new law, and no election shall be held for any judgeship abolished pursuant to new law.

New law provides that the judges, en banc, may appoint a hearing officer in the same manner as any district court or may appoint a commissioner to perform duties in accordance with the rules of the court as prescribed by the elected judges that are in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution and do not exceed authority otherwise provided for in the law for a hearing officer or commissioner in a district court in the state.

Prior law provided that each division in the Criminal District Court in the parish of Orleans shall have a position or office of judicial administrator, deputy judicial administrator, and assistants, at least thirteen law clerks, and at least four secretaries.

New law repeals the fixed number of law clerks and secretaries and provides for law clerks and secretaries for each section at amounts approved by the executive committee of the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund for the parish of Orleans.

New law provides that the commissioners shall have the same authority for cases in prior law, within the jurisdiction of the Orleans Criminal Court as a commissioner pursuant to prior law (R.S. 13:713), including the authority to make a report and recommendation to the judges concerning claims for post-conviction relief by the incarcerated.

New law provides that the salaries of commissioners may be optionally supplemented by the city of New Orleans or the Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund for the parish of Orleans, as determined by its executive committee.

New law repeals provisions dividing the civil district court into seven divisions and provisions regarding an additional commissioner in the criminal district court of Orleans Parish.

New law abolishes Divisions B and F of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans in accordance with new law, reducing the number of divisions from seven to five.

New law provides that any judgeship that voluntarily becomes vacant by retirement or resignation, within the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, before December 31, 2026, is abolished.

Effective June 3, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 13:1137(B), 1302, 1312(A), (B), (C), (D)(1), 1335, 337(A) and (B), 1343(A), 1344(A) and (D), 1347(A)(3), (B), and (C), 1383, 1384, 1595, 2151(D), 2151.4(D), 2492(A)(1), (5), and (6); adds R.S. 13:1312(E) and (F), and 2492(A)(B); repeals R.S. 13:1304, and 1347(D), (F), and (G), 1595.1, and 2492(A)(7)(b))