

SENATE BILL NO. 123

BY SENATOR PERRY

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1878, relative to city courts; to provide for courts with two
3 divisions; to provide for division declaration; to provide for determining the chief
4 judge; to provide for the duties of the chief judge; to provide for the term of the chief
5 judge; to provide for technical changes; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:1878 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1878. ~~Courts having more than one division; declaration~~ **Declaration** of
9 candidates for office; ~~seniority~~ **determination of chief judge**

10 **A.** Where a city court is composed of ~~two or more~~ **than two** divisions, a
11 candidate for nomination and election to the office of judge of the city court, at the
12 time of filing his declaration as a candidate, shall designate the division of the court
13 for which he is a candidate. The judge oldest in point of continuous service shall be
14 the ~~presiding~~ **chief** judge, except that when they have served continuously the same
15 length of time, the judge oldest in years shall be the ~~presiding~~ **chief** judge.

16 **B.(1) Where a city court is composed of two divisions, a candidate for**
17 **nomination and election to the office of judge of the city court, at the time of**
18 **filing his declaration as a candidate, shall designate the division of the court for**
19 **which he is a candidate.**

20 **(2) The city court shall have a chief judge.**

21 **(a) If not selected by agreement, the chief judge shall be the judge having**
22 **the longest continuous service as a judge of that city court or, if both are equal**
23 **in such service, then the judge having the longest continuous service as a judge**
24 **regardless of the court. In the event both judges are new or have equal**
25 **continuous service as a judge, then the chief judge shall be the judge having the**
26 **most years as a licensed attorney in the state of Louisiana or, if both have the**
27 **same number of years, the judge oldest in age.**

1 **(b) The chief judge shall preside over meetings en banc, appoint**
 2 **committees, certify all documents on behalf of the court en banc, prepare the**
 3 **agenda for en banc meetings, represent the court in ceremonial functions,**
 4 **oversee all financial planning and reporting, perform duties as delegated by the**
 5 **court en banc, and exercise supervision of administrative functions including**
 6 **but not limited to the appointment of the clerk of court, deputy clerks of court,**
 7 **and court reporters.**

8 **(c) The chief judge shall remain in such position until his resignation or**
 9 **retirement. The court en banc may designate a procedure by local rule for the**
 10 **other judge of the city court to act as temporary chief judge if the chief judge**
 11 **is unable to perform his duties due to physical or medical incapacity.**

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____