

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 207

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

CIVIL/JURY TRIALS: Reduces the civil jury trial threshold amount incrementally over a period of two years

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Civil Procedure Article 1732(1), relative to civil jury trials;
3 to provide relative to jury threshold amounts; to provide for an incremental reduction
4 of the jury threshold over two years; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Article 1732(1) is hereby amended and reenacted
7 to read as follows:

8 Art. 1732. Limitation upon jury trials

9 A trial by jury shall not be available in:

10 (1)(a) ~~A~~ Beginning August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2021, a suit where the
11 amount of no individual petitioner's cause of action exceeds ~~fifty~~ twenty-five
12 thousand dollars exclusive of interest and costs, except as follows:

13 ~~(a)~~(i) If an individual petitioner stipulates or otherwise judicially admits sixty
14 days or more prior to trial that the amount of the individual petitioner's cause of
15 action does not exceed ~~fifty~~ twenty-five thousand dollars exclusive of interest and
16 costs, a defendant shall not be entitled to a trial by jury.

17 ~~(b)~~(ii) If an individual petitioner stipulates or otherwise judicially admits for
18 the first time less than sixty days prior to trial that the amount of the individual
19 petitioner's cause of action does not exceed ~~fifty~~ twenty-five thousand dollars
20 exclusive of interest and costs, any other party may retain the right to a trial by jury
21 if that party is entitled to a trial by jury pursuant to this Article and has otherwise
22 complied with the procedural requirements for obtaining a trial by jury.

1 ~~(c)(iii)~~ Notwithstanding Subsubparagraphs (a) and (b) Items (i) and (ii) of
2 ~~this Subparagraph~~ Subsubparagraph, if, as a result of a compromise or dismissal of
3 one or more claims or parties which occurs less than sixty days prior to trial, an
4 individual petitioner stipulates or otherwise judicially admits that the amount of the
5 individual petitioner's cause of action does not exceed ~~forty~~ twenty-five thousand
6 dollars exclusive of interest and costs, a defendant shall not be entitled to a trial by
7 jury.

8 (b) Beginning August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022, a suit where the
9 amount of no individual petitioner's cause of action exceeds fifteen thousand dollars
10 exclusive of interest and costs, except as follows:

11 (i) If an individual petitioner stipulates or otherwise judicially admits sixty
12 days or more prior to trial that the amount of the individual petitioner's cause of
13 action does not exceed fifteen thousand dollars exclusive of interest and costs, a
14 defendant shall not be entitled to a trial by jury.

15 (ii) If an individual petitioner stipulates or otherwise judicially admits for the
16 first time less than sixty days prior to trial that the amount of the individual
17 petitioner's cause of action does not exceed fifteen thousand dollars exclusive of
18 interest and costs, any other party may retain the right to a trial by jury if that party
19 is entitled to a trial by jury pursuant to this Article and has otherwise complied with
20 the procedural requirements for obtaining a trial by jury.

21 (iii) Notwithstanding Items (i) and (ii) of this Subsubparagraph, if, as a result
22 of a compromise or dismissal of one or more claims or parties which occurs less than
23 sixty days prior to trial, an individual petitioner stipulates or otherwise judicially
24 admits that the amount of the individual petitioner's cause of action does not exceed
25 fifteen thousand dollars exclusive of interest and costs, a defendant shall not be
26 entitled to a trial by jury.

27 (c) Beginning August 1, 2022, a suit where the amount of no individual
28 petitioner's cause of action exceeds five thousand dollars exclusive of interest and
29 costs, except as follows:

