

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 52

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A), relative to trial without
3 jury; to provide for the trial of misdemeanors; to provide for certain misdemeanors
4 which may be tried by the court without a jury; to provide for prospective and
5 retroactive application; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A) is hereby amended and
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 Art. 779. Trial of misdemeanors

11 A. A defendant charged with a misdemeanor in which the punishment, as set
12 forth in the statute defining the offense, may be a fine in excess of ~~one~~ two thousand
13 five hundred dollars or imprisonment for more than six months must be tried by a
14 jury of six jurors, all of whom ~~must~~ shall concur to render a verdict.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be given prospective application and
17 retroactive application to June 8, 2025.

18 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
19 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
20 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____