

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 108

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

REAPPORTIONMENT/JUDGES: Establishes election sections for the election of judges to the City Court of Lake Charles

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1952(13), relative to the City Court of Lake Charles; to
3 provide for election sections for the election of judges to the court; to provide for
4 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:1952(13) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1952. Courts created by special legislative Act

8 The following city courts, heretofore created and established by special
9 legislative Act, are hereby recognized and continued in existence and, except as
10 otherwise provided in this Section, their territorial jurisdiction shall extend through
11 the city and ward or wards wherein the city in which they are domiciled is located,
12 as extended from time to time:

13 * * *

14 (13)(a) The City Court of Lake Charles, domiciled in the city of Lake
15 Charles, parish of Calcasieu, having two city judges and a city marshal;

16 (b) For the purpose of electing judges, the court shall be divided into two
17 election sections.

18 (i) Election section one shall consist of Precincts 300, 301, 302, 303, 304,
19 305, 307, 308, 309E, 309W, 310, 311, 312, 313E, 313W, 315E, 316E, 317, 318,

1 319N, 319S, 320E, 320W, 321, 322, 323, 324, 327, 328, 329, 330, 360 (Part - that
2 portion within Ward 3), 361, 364, and 371N of Calcasieu Parish.

3 (ii) Election section two shall consist of Precincts 306, 314, 315W, 316W,
4 325, 326, 331, 332N, 332S, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 362, 363, 365,
5 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371S, and 372 of Calcasieu Parish.

6 (c) The judgeship designated as Division B shall be elected from election
7 section one, and the judgeship designated as Division A shall be elected from
8 election section two.

9 * * *

10 Section 2.(A) The precincts referenced in this Act are those contained in the file
11 named "2022 Precinct Shapefiles (12-25-2022)" available on the Louisiana House of
12 Representatives website on the effective date of this Section. The 2022 Precinct Shapefiles
13 are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting
14 TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the state of Louisiana as those files have been modified and
15 validated through the data verification program of the Louisiana House of Representatives
16 and the Louisiana Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through December 25,
17 2022, to the Legislature of Louisiana by parish governing authorities pursuant to the
18 provisions of R.S. 18:532 and 532.1.

19 (B) When a precinct referenced in this Act has been subdivided by action of the
20 parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish
21 governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with the provisions of R.S.
22 18:532.1, the enumeration in this Act of the general precinct designation shall include all
23 nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof, however such subdivisions may be
24 designated.

25 (C) The territorial limits of the election sections as provided in this Act shall
26 continue in effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the
27 precincts by the parish governing authority.

1 Section 3. Any election to elect a judge to the City Court of Lake Charles occurring
2 after the effective date of this Act shall be conducted within the appropriate election section
3 established by the provisions of Section 1 of this Act.

4 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
8 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 108 Original

2023 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

Abstract: Provides for the composition of two election sections in the City Court of Lake Charles and provides for the assignment of judgeships to those election sections for election purposes.

Statistical summaries of proposed law, as well as maps illustrating proposed district boundaries accompany this digest. (*Attached to the bill version on the internet.*)

Present law provides that the City Court of Lake Charles is domiciled in the city of Lake Charles and that the territorial jurisdiction of the court extends through the city and ward or wards wherein the city is located, as extended from time to time. Provides that the court has two city judges and one city marshal. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law creates two election sections in the City Court of Lake Charles. Provides that one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of election section one, and one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of election section two. Provides that the judgeship designated as Division A of the City Court of Lake Charles is assigned to election section two for election purposes. Provides that the judgeship designated as Division B of the City Court of Lake Charles is assigned to election section one for election purposes. Specifies that any election to elect a judge to the court occurring after the effective date of proposed law shall be conducted within the appropriate election section established by proposed law.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts identified in the file named "2022 Precinct Shapefiles (12-25-2022)" available on the La. House of Representatives website. Specifies that the 2022 Precincts are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2022 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the state of La. as validated through the data verification program of the La. legislature. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with present law, the enumeration of the general precinct designation shall include all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides that the territorial limits of the districts as enacted shall continue in effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Population data in the summaries accompanying this digest are derived from 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Summary File for Louisiana. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:1952(13))