

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 176

BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE

REAPPORTIONMENT/JUDGES: Provides for nine election districts for the election of the justices of the supreme court

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the  
3 supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts into  
4 nine districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions  
5 for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit  
6 and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related  
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §101.2. Supreme court districts; justices

11 The state shall be divided into nine supreme court districts. The supreme  
12 court shall be composed of one justice elected from each of the nine districts as set  
13 forth below:

14 (1) District 1 is composed of Plaquemines Parish; St. Bernard Parish;  
15 St. Tammany Parish; Tangipahoa Parish; and Washington Parish.

16 (2) District 2 is composed of Avoyelles Parish; Concordia Parish; Precincts  
17 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-13, 1-14, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-19,  
18 1-20, 1-21, 1-22, 1-23, 1-24, 1-25, 1-26, 1-27, 1-28, 1-29, 1-30, 1-31, 1-32, 1-36,  
19 1-37, 1-38, 1-45, 1-46, 1-50, 1-51, 1-52, 1-53, 1-54, 1-55, 1-58, 1-60, 1-61, 1-62,  
20 1-63, 1-66, 1-67, 1-68, 1-70, 1-71, 1-72, 1-73, 1-77, 1-78, 1-81, 1-82, 1-83, 1-84,

1 1-85, 1-86, 1-87, 1-88, 1-91, 1-92, 1-93, 1-94, 1-95, 1-96, 1-97, 1-100, 1-101, 1-102,  
 2 1-104, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17,  
 3 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31,  
 4 2-32, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 3-8, 3-11, 3-12, 3-18, 3-21, 3-24, 3-27, 3-32, 3-35,  
 5 3-39, 3-42, 3-52, 3-54, 3-55, 3-60, 3-72, and 3-74 of East Baton Rouge Parish; East  
 6 Carroll Parish; East Feliciana Parish; Madison Parish; Precincts 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,  
 7 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30, 65, 65A, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, and  
 8 79 of Ouachita Parish; Pointe Coupee Parish; Precincts C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7,  
 9 C8, C9, C10, C11-A, C11-B, C14, C15, C18, C19, C20, C21, C24, C25, C28, C39,  
 10 C40, N10, and N27 of Rapides Parish; Richland Parish; St. Helena Parish; Tensas  
 11 Parish; and West Feliciana Parish.

12 (3) District 3 is composed of Acadia Parish; Allen Parish; Beauregard Parish;  
 13 Calcasieu Parish; Cameron Parish; Evangeline Parish; Jefferson Davis Parish;  
 14 St. Landry Parish; and Vermilion Parish.

15 (4) District 4 is composed of Bienville Parish; Caldwell Parish; Catahoula  
 16 Parish; Claiborne Parish; Franklin Parish; Grant Parish; Jackson Parish; LaSalle  
 17 Parish; Lincoln Parish; Morehouse Parish; Natchitoches Parish; Precincts 1, 1A, 2,  
 18 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9A, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,  
 19 44, 44A, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 51A, 52, 52A, 53, 54, 55, 56, 56A, 57, 58, 59, 60,  
 20 61, 62, 63, 64, 71, 75, 76, 77, and 78 of Ouachita Parish; Precincts C13, C17, C22,  
 21 C23, C26, C27, C30, C31, C32, C33, C34, C35, C36, C37-A, C37-B, C38-A, C38-B,  
 22 C41, C42, N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N9, N11, N12, N13-A, N13-B, N14-A,  
 23 N14-B, N15, N16, N17, N18-A, N18-B, N19, N20, N21, N22, N23, N24, N25, N26,  
 24 N28, N29, S1, S2, S4, S5, S6A, S6B, S7, S8, S9, S10, S11, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17,  
 25 S18, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23, S24, S25, S26, S27, S28, and S29 of Rapides Parish;  
 26 Red River Parish; Union Parish; West Carroll Parish; and Winn Parish.

27 (5) District 5 is composed of Ascension Parish; Precincts 1-7, 1-8, 1-12,  
 28 1-33, 1-34, 1-35, 1-39, 1-40, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43, 1-44, 1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-56, 1-57,  
 29 1-59, 1-64, 1-65, 1-69, 1-74, 1-75, 1-76, 1-79, 1-80, 1-89, 1-90, 1-98, 1-99, 1-103,

1 1-105, 1-107, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-33, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-9, 3-10, 3-13,  
 2 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-19, 3-20, 3-22, 3-23, 3-25, 3-26, 3-28, 3-29, 3-30, 3-31,  
 3 3-33, 3-34, 3-36, 3-37, 3-38, 3-40, 3-41, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-46, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49,  
 4 3-50, 3-51, 3-53, 3-56, 3-57, 3-58, 3-59, 3-61, 3-62, 3-63, 3-64, 3-65, 3-66, 3-67,  
 5 3-68, 3-69, 3-70, 3-71, 3-73, 3-75, and 3-76 of East Baton Rouge Parish; Iberville  
 6 Parish; Livingston Parish; and West Baton Rouge Parish.

7 (6) District 6 is composed of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,  
 8 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37,  
 9 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64,  
 10 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87,  
 11 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108,  
 12 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125A, 125B, 126, 127, 128, 129,  
 13 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157A, 157B,  
 14 170, 183, 184, 185A, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193A, 193B, 194A, 194B, 197A,  
 15 197B, 198, 199, 202, 203, 204, 216B, 216C, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231,  
 16 232A, 232B, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238A, 238B, 246, 247, 248, 1-G, 2-G, 3-G, 4-G,  
 17 5-G, 6-G, 7-G, 9-G, 10-G, 12-G, 13-G, 1-GI, 1-H, 2-H, 3-H, 4-H, 5-H, 6-H, 7-H,  
 18 8-H, 9-H, 1-K, 2-K, 3-K, 4-K, 5-K, 6-KA, 6-KB, 7-KA, 7-KB, 8-K, 9-K, 10-K,  
 19 11-K, 12-K, 13-KA, 13-KB, 14-K, 15-K, 16-K, 17-K, 18-K, 19-K, 20-K, 21-K,  
 20 22-K, 23-K, 24-K, 25-K, 26-K, 27-K, 28-K, 29-K, 30-K, 31-K, 33-K, 34-K, 35-K,  
 21 1-L, 1-W, 2-W, 3-W, 4-W, 5-W, 6-W, and 7-W of Jefferson Parish; Lafourche  
 22 Parish; and Precincts 3-20, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-11, 4-14, 4-15, 4-17, 4-17A, 4-18, 4-20,  
 23 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, 5-15, 5-16, 5-17, 5-18, 7-41, 7-42, 14-2, 14-3, 14-4, 14-5, 14-6,  
 24 14-7, 14-8, 14-9, 14-10, 14-11, 14-12, 14-13A, 14-14, 14-15, 14-16, 14-17, 14-18A,  
 25 14-19, 14-20, 14-21, 16-1, 16-1A, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 16-5, 16-6, 16-7, 16-8, 17-1,  
 26 17-17, 17-18, 17-18A, 17-19, and 17-20 of Orleans Parish.

27 (7) District 7 is composed of Assumption Parish; Precincts 171, 172, 173,  
 28 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A, 179B, 180, 181, 182, 185B, 187, 195, 196, 200, 201,  
 29 205, 210, 211, 212, 213A, 213B, 213C, 214A, 214B, 215, 216A, 217, 8-G, and 11-G

1 of Jefferson Parish; Precincts 1-1, 1-2, 1-5, 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-4, 2-6, 2-7, 3-1, 3-8, 3-9,  
2 3-12, 3-14, 3-15, 3-18, 3-19, 4-2, 4-3, 4-6, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-5, 5-7, 5-8, 5-9, 5-10,  
3 5-11, 5-12, 5-13, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4, 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, 7-8,  
4 7-9A, 7-10, 7-11, 7-12, 7-13, 7-14, 7-15, 7-16, 7-17, 7-18, 7-19, 7-20, 7-21, 7-23,  
5 7-24, 7-25, 7-25A, 7-26, 7-27, 7-27B, 7-28, 7-28A, 7-29, 7-30, 7-32, 7-33, 7-35,  
6 7-37, 7-37A, 7-40, 8-1, 8-2, 8-4, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8, 8-9, 8-12, 8-13, 8-14, 8-15, 8-19,  
7 8-20, 8-21, 8-22, 8-23, 8-24, 8-25, 8-26, 8-27, 8-28, 8-30, 9-1, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7,  
8 9-8, 9-9, 9-10, 9-11, 9-12, 9-13, 9-14, 9-15, 9-16, 9-17, 9-19, 9-21, 9-23, 9-25, 9-26,  
9 9-28, 9-28C, 9-29, 9-30, 9-30A, 9-31, 9-31A, 9-31B, 9-31D, 9-32, 9-33, 9-34A,  
10 9-35, 9-35A, 9-36, 9-36B, 9-37, 9-38, 9-38A, 9-39, 9-39B, 9-40, 9-40A, 9-40C, 9-41,  
11 9-41A, 9-41B, 9-41C, 9-41D, 9-42, 9-42C, 9-43A, 9-43B, 9-43C, 9-43E, 9-43F,  
12 9-43G, 9-43H, 9-43I, 9-43J, 9-43K, 9-43L, 9-43M, 9-43N, 9-44, 9-44A, 9-44B,  
13 9-44D, 9-44E, 9-44F, 9-44G, 9-44I, 9-44J, 9-44L, 9-44M, 9-44N, 9-44O, 9-44P,  
14 9-44Q, 9-45, 9-45A, 10-3, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8, 10-9, 10-11, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 11-2,  
15 11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10, 11-11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-17, 12-1, 12-2,  
16 12-3, 12-4, 12-5, 12-6, 12-7, 12-9, 12-10, 12-11, 12-12, 12-13, 12-14, 12-16, 12-17,  
17 12-19, 13-1, 13-2, 13-3, 13-4, 13-5, 13-6, 13-7, 13-8, 13-9, 13-10, 13-11, 13-12,  
18 13-13, 13-14, 13-15, 13-16, 14-1, 14-23, 14-24A, 14-25, 14-26, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3,  
19 15-5, 15-6, 15-8, 15-9, 15-10, 15-11, 15-12, 15-12A, 15-13, 15-13A, 15-13B, 15-14,  
20 15-14A, 15-14B, 15-14C, 15-14D, 15-14E, 15-14F, 15-14G, 15-15, 15-15A, 15-15B,  
21 15-16, 15-17, 15-17A, 15-17B, 15-18, 15-18A, 15-18B, 15-18C, 15-18D, 15-18E,  
22 15-18F, 15-19, 15-19A, 15-19B, 15-19C, 16-9, 17-2, 17-3, 17-4, 17-5, 17-6, 17-7,  
23 17-8, 17-9, 17-10, 17-11, 17-12, 17-13, 17-13A, 17-14, 17-15, and 17-16 of Orleans  
24 Parish; St. Charles Parish; St. James Parish; and St. John the Baptist Parish.

25 (8) District 8 is composed of Iberia Parish; Lafayette Parish; St. Martin  
26 Parish; St. Mary Parish; and Terrebonne Parish.

27 (9) District 9 is composed of Bossier Parish; Caddo Parish; DeSoto Parish;  
28 Sabine Parish; Vernon Parish; and Webster Parish.

1        §101.3. Assignment of districts; vacancies; elections; redistricting

2            A. Each justice of the supreme court in office on the effective date of this  
3        Section shall be assigned to the district composed as provided by R.S. 13:101.2  
4        having the same designation as the district from which the justice was elected and  
5        may complete the term for which he was elected.

6            B. The successor to the office of justice of the supreme court shall be elected  
7        from the district assigned to that office as provided by Subsection A of this Section.

8        The election shall be from the district composed as provided by R.S. 13:101.2.

9        Section 2. R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4 are hereby repealed.

10       Section 3.(A) The precincts referenced in this Act are those contained in the file  
11 named "2024 Precinct Shapefiles (01-10-2024)" available on the Legislature of Louisiana's  
12 website on the effective date of this Section. The 2024 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon  
13 those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line  
14 Shapefiles for the State of Louisiana as those files have been modified and validated through  
15 the data verification program of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana  
16 Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through January 10, 2024, to the Legislature  
17 of Louisiana by parish governing authorities pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:532 and  
18 532.1.

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       Section 4.(A) The initial terms of office of supreme court justices to be elected from  
26 Districts 8 and 9 as provided for in Section 1 of this Act begin on January 1, 2025.

27       (B) The initial term of office of the justice elected from District 8 ends on January 1,  
28 2032, and the initial term of office of the justice elected from District 9 ends on January 1,  
29 2030.

1 Section 5. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when the proposed  
2 amendment of Article V of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which  
3 originated as House Bill No. 28 of this 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature is adopted  
4 at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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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)]

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HB 176 Original

2024 Regular Session

Melerine

**Abstract:** Provides for the redistricting of the state's supreme court and provides for the composition of nine supreme court districts. Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article V of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 28 of this 2024 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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

Present constitution (Const. Art. V, §3) provides the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices.

Proposed constitutional amendment (House Bill No. 28) provides the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices.

Present constitution (Const. Art. V, §4) provides the state shall be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each. Further provides the districts and the number of judges assigned to each on the effective date of this constitution are retained, subject to change by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed constitutional amendment (House Bill No. 28) retains present constitution.

Proposed law redraws district boundaries for nine supreme court districts.

Proposed law provides the proposed districts are effective for all purposes if and when the proposed constitutional amendment is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

Proposed law repeals present law that provides for an additional judgeship for the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit who is assigned to the La. Supreme Court.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts contained in the file named "2024 Precinct Shapefiles (01-10-2024)" available on the La. legislature's website. The 2024 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the State of La. as those files have been modified and validated through the data verification program of the La. House of Representatives and the La. Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through Jan. 10, 2024, to the Legislature of La. by parish governing authorities.

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.

Proposed law provides that the initial terms of office of supreme court justices to be elected from Districts 8 and 9 begin on Jan. 1, 2025.

Proposed law provides that the initial term of office of the justice elected from District 8 ends on Jan. 1, 2032, and the initial term of office of the justice elected from District 9 ends on Jan. 1, 2030.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article V of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 28 of this 2024 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Adds R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3; Repeals R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4)