

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 592

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAY MORRIS

COURTS/DISTRICT: Provides for special divisions or sections in district courts

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:587.2(A) and 587.4(A), relative to district courts; to provide
3 relative to designation of speciality divisions or sections in district courts; to provide
4 relative to the designation of a special division or section of the Fourth Judicial
5 District Court; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:587.2(A) and 587.4(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
8 as follows:

9 §587.2. Fourth Judicial District; divisions; subject matter

10 A. Respecting seniority and the requirement that all cases be assigned
11 randomly within multi-judge sections, the judges of the Fourth Judicial District
12 Court, by rule adopted by a majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, may ~~assign~~
13 ~~certain divisions of the court to a criminal section and certain divisions to a civil,~~
14 ~~drug court, driving while intoxicated court, mental health court, juvenile, or other~~
15 ~~section of the court.~~ designate a certain division or section of the court as a
16 specialized division or section having criminal, civil, drug court, driving while
17 intoxicated court, mental health court, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile, violent crimes
18 or homicides, or other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

19 * * *

20 §587.4. District courts; specialized divisions or sections; subject matter

21 A. Respecting seniority and the requirement that all cases be assigned
22 randomly within multi-judge divisions or sections, the judges of any judicial district

1 court, by rule adopted by a majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, may designate
2 ~~certain~~ a certain division or divisions or sections of the court as a specialized division
3 or section having criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, mental
4 health court, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile, violent crimes or homicides, or other
5 specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

6 * * *

7 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
8 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
9 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
10 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
11 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)]

Jay Morris

HB No. 592

Abstract: Authorizes district courts to assign sections or divisions of court with specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

Present law authorizes judges of the 4th JDC to assign certain divisions or sections of the court with subject matter jurisdiction over criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, mental health court, juvenile, or other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

Proposed law retains present law and adds authority to create a section or division for violent crimes, homicides, misdemeanors, and traffic offenses.

Present law authorizes judges from any judicial district to assign certain divisions or sections of the court with subject matter jurisdiction over criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, mental health court, juvenile, violent crimes or homicides, or other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

Proposed law retains present law and adds authority to create a section or division for misdemeanors and traffic offenses.

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

(Amends R.S. 13:587.2(A) and 587.4(A))