

ACT No. 845

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1206

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:2491, 2492, 2493, 2493.1(A)(introductory paragraph), (B),
3 (C), and (D), 2495, 2495.1(A), 2496.1, 2496.2(A), 2496.3(A), (B), (E), (F),
4 (G)(introductory paragraph), (3) and (5), 2496.4, 2497, 2498(A), (B), and (C), 2499,
5 2500(A) and (B), 2500.1, 2500.2, 2500.4, 2501, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516,
6 2519(A), and Section 1 of Act 277 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana
7 Legislature, and to repeal R.S. 13:2501.1, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2507.1, and 2509,
8 relative to the consolidation of the municipal and traffic courts of New Orleans; to
9 require the consolidation of the municipal and traffic courts in New Orleans; to
10 transfer the traffic court; to provide relative to jurisdiction; to eliminate the clerk of
11 court and judicial administrator for the traffic court; to provide for the creation of a
12 task force to perform a study to provide for recommendations on the number of
13 judges necessary in the municipal and traffic courts of New Orleans, and on methods
14 and procedures to effectuate the consolidation of the New Orleans Traffic Court and
15 the New Orleans Municipal Court; to provide for certain procedures, duties,
16 membership, and reporting deadlines of the task force; to authorize and provide for
17 the transfer of certain state property; to provide for the creation of a committee to
18 make a recommendation regarding certain state property and to provide for its
19 membership; and to provide for related matters.

20 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

21 Section 1. R.S. 13:2491, 2492, 2493, 2493.1(A)(introductory paragraph), (B), (C),
22 and (D), 2495, 2495.1(A), 2496.1, 2496.2(A), 2496.3(A), (B), (E), (F), (G)(introductory
23 paragraph), (3) and (5), 2496.4, 2497, 2498(A), (B), and (C), 2499, 2500(A) and (B), 2500.1,

1 2500.2, 2500.4, 2501, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, and 2519(A) are hereby amended and
 2 reenacted to read as follows:

3 CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL AND TRAFFIC COURT OF NEW ORLEANS

4 §2491. Municipal and traffic court of New Orleans

5 There is created a "Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans".

6 §2492. ~~Four~~ Number of judges; qualifications; election; salary; vacation

7 A. The ~~court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans shall consist of
 8 ~~four~~ eight judges, all of whom must be attorneys-at-law, who shall be elected by the
 9 qualified electors of the parish of Orleans. They shall not be less than thirty years
 10 of age. Each shall have practiced law in the state for at least five years preceding his
 11 election; and shall be a duly qualified elector of the parish of Orleans.

12 (1) Each of the eight judges, one of whom shall be the judge of the housing
 13 court division, for the purposes of nomination and election only, shall preside over
 14 separate and distinct divisions of the court.

15 (2) The divisions provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be
 16 designated alphabetically as Division "A", Division "B", Division "C", Division "D",
 17 Division "E", Division "F", Division "G", and Division "H".

18 B. ~~The first judges of the court elected at the congressional election of 1948~~
 19 ~~shall serve as follows: one of the judges for a term expiring December 31st, 1952,~~
 20 ~~one for a term expiring December 31st, 1954, one for a term expiring December~~
 21 ~~31st, 1956, and one for a term expiring December 31st, 1958. Thereafter each~~ Each
 22 of the judges shall be elected for an eight year term at the regular congressional
 23 election held immediately preceding the expiration of such term. Every term shall
 24 expire on December 31st thirty-first of the last year thereof. Any vacancy in the court
 25 for any cause where the unexpired term is less than one year shall be filled
 26 temporarily by appointment by the governor until the next succeeding congressional
 27 election, at which time such vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the
 28 unexpired term by election. All judges so elected shall take their office on the first
 29 day of January following their election.

1 C. Each of the judges shall receive a salary of not less than eighteen
2 thousand dollars per annum, payable monthly by the city of New Orleans on his own
3 warrant.

4 D. Each of the judges of the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of
5 New Orleans shall have annual vacation of thirty days, the time to be fixed by the
6 rules of the court.

7 E. Whenever any of the judges are temporarily absent because of court
8 business, illness or while on vacation, a judge ad hoc may be appointed by the judges
9 of the municipal and traffic court, acting en banc, to serve during the period of such
10 temporary absence. The judge ad hoc shall have the qualifications for election to the
11 office and his compensation shall be proportionately equal to that of the judge for
12 whom he is appointed to serve, and shall be payable in the same manner and from
13 the same source ~~and/or~~ or sources as that of such judge.

14 F. The judge of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans having the
15 most seniority shall become the senior and administrative judge during his tenure of
16 office and shall not engage in the practice of law or share in the profits, directly or
17 indirectly, of any law firm or legal corporation. The senior and administrative judge
18 of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans shall possess the same
19 qualifications that are required of district court judges and shall receive a salary of
20 not less than eighteen thousand dollars per annum, but not more than the salary paid,
21 from all sources, to the district court judges in and for the parish of Orleans. The
22 governing authority of Orleans Parish shall determine the salary paid to the senior
23 and administrative judge, of which the amount payable by the state to city judges of
24 the state shall be paid by the state and the remainder shall be payable by the city of
25 New Orleans. The salary of the senior and administrative judge shall be payable
26 monthly on his own warrant. Should the senior judge decline the position of senior
27 and administrative judge then the ~~next senior judge of the municipal court~~ judges of
28 the municipal and traffic court, sitting en banc, shall choose a judge to ~~may~~ assume
29 the position.

1 §2493. Jurisdiction

2 A. The jurisdiction of the court shall extend to the trial of violations of the
 3 ordinances of the city of New Orleans, ~~except~~ including the regulation of traffic
 4 violations within the city of New Orleans.

5 B. The jurisdiction of the courts shall further extend to the trial of violations
 6 of state statutes which are not triable by a jury; which jurisdiction shall be concurrent
 7 with that of the Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans. ~~This jurisdiction~~
 8 ~~shall not extend to traffic violations.~~

9 C. The jurisdiction of the court shall further extend to the trial of offenses
 10 involving traffic and the regulation thereof punishable by state statute including
 11 violations of the Criminal Code of Louisiana involving traffic and the trial of
 12 violations relating to street and highway regulatory laws and such other state laws
 13 as relate to the operation of a vehicle. The jurisdiction over state traffic offenses
 14 shall be concurrent with the Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans. In
 15 addition, every prosecution in the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans under
 16 state law shall be filed in the court by affidavit or bill of information under the
 17 provision of state law defining the offense and such prosecution shall be brought by
 18 the city attorney of New Orleans. The jurisdiction of the court shall further extend
 19 to appeals by any person aggrieved by an administrative hearing officer's decision
 20 concerning a traffic violation enforced by the city of New Orleans' automated traffic
 21 enforcement system. Any aggrieved person shall file such appeal within thirty days
 22 after the date of such decision. The court shall have de novo review over such
 23 appeals. The court shall adopt rules regulating the manner of taking, hearing, and
 24 deciding such appeals.

25 D. When exercising ~~said~~ concurrent jurisdiction and in cases involving
 26 violation of an ordinance adopted pursuant to R.S. 14:143(B), all procedures shall
 27 comply with those parts of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Louisiana
 28 Revised Statutes, and the Code of Criminal Procedure pertaining to the prosecution
 29 of criminal cases not requiring trial by jury.

1 C. Upon creation of the housing court division, one of the judges of the
 2 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans now provided for by R.S. 13:2492 shall
 3 be assigned to serve as the judge of the housing court division of the Municipal and
 4 Traffic Court of New Orleans.

5 ~~(1) Each of the four judges provided for in R.S. 13:2492, one of whom shall~~
 6 ~~be the judge of the housing court division, for the purposes of nomination and~~
 7 ~~election only, shall preside over separate and distinct divisions of the court.~~

8 ~~(2) The divisions provided for in Subparagraph (1) above shall be designated~~
 9 ~~alphabetically as Division "A", Division "B", Division "C", and Division "D". The~~
 10 ~~judge senior in point of continuous service shall preside over Division "A", and the~~
 11 ~~other judges of the court shall occupy the other designated divisions according to~~
 12 ~~their respective periods of continuous service.~~

13 D.(1) The jurisdiction of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans,
 14 the Housing and Environmental Court Division of the Municipal and Traffic Court
 15 of New Orleans shall extend to the trial of violations of an ordinance of the city of
 16 New Orleans and the violations of state statutes which are not triable by a jury for
 17 criminal prosecutions provided in R.S. 14:107.3, and any other authority provided
 18 by law or home rule charter for the civil enforcement of health, safety, and welfare
 19 ordinances, including but not limited to the authority provided in R.S. 13:2575 for
 20 administrative adjudication for violations of public health, housing, fire code,
 21 environmental building code, zoning, historic district, permitting vegetation, and
 22 nuisance ordinances, as provided for and defined in R.S. 33:1374. In Orleans Parish,
 23 the public authority may enforce health, safety, and welfare statutes or ordinances
 24 or otherwise seek to eliminate blighted property, unsafe structures and equipment,
 25 unlawful structures and structures unfit for human occupancy, housing violations, or
 26 public nuisances additionally in the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans.

27 (2) A separate environmental docket of the Housing and Environmental
 28 Court Division of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans is established

1 into which the public authority, as defined in R.S. 33:1374, or other party, may
2 request allotment or transfer of cases brought pursuant to R.S. 33:1374.

3 * * *

4 §2495. Clerk of court

5 A. There shall be one clerk of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New
6 Orleans who shall be appointed by the judges thereof and shall be subject to removal
7 by a majority of the judges of the court, at will. The court shall adopt such rules and
8 regulations governing the functions, duties, operation, and procedure of the clerk's
9 office as may be necessary.

10 ~~B. There shall be one clerk of the Traffic Court of New Orleans who shall~~
11 ~~be appointed by the judges thereof and shall be subject to removal by a majority of~~
12 ~~the judges of the court, at will. The court shall adopt such rules and regulations~~
13 ~~governing the functions, duties, operation, and procedure of the clerk's office as may~~
14 ~~be necessary.~~

15 ~~C.B.~~ The salaries of the clerk of municipal court and the clerk of traffic court
16 salary of the clerk of the municipal and traffic court shall be determined and set by
17 a three-fourths majority of the judges of the ~~two courts~~ court; the ~~salaries~~ salary shall
18 be the same and shall be paid from the ~~respective~~ consolidated judicial expense ~~funds~~
19 fund of the ~~courts~~ court. ~~However, if one of the funds has insufficient resources,~~
20 ~~then both salaries may be paid from the remaining fund.~~

21 ~~D.C.~~ The said clerks clerk shall retain all of the benefits of ~~their~~ its office,
22 including but not limited to hospitalization coverage, retirement benefits, insurance
23 benefits, and sick and annual leave benefits, and ~~they~~ it shall be paid through the
24 payroll system utilized by the city of New Orleans for its other employees.

25 ~~E.D.~~ The said clerks clerk shall continue to be paid under the current method
26 used by the city of New Orleans until otherwise notified by the judges of the
27 municipal and traffic ~~courts~~ court.

28 §2495.1. Judicial administrator

29 A. There shall be one judicial administrator of the Municipal and Traffic
30 Court of New Orleans, who shall be appointed by the judges thereof and shall be

1 subject to removal by a majority of the judges of the court at will. The court shall
 2 adopt such rules and regulations governing the functions, duties, operations, and
 3 procedures of the judicial administrator's office as may be necessary. The salary and
 4 benefits shall be paid by the city of New Orleans on the warrant of the chief judge.
 5 If the city fails to pay the salary and benefits, they may be paid from the consolidated
 6 judicial expense fund of the court.

7 * * *

8 §2496.1. Crier; appointment; salary

9 Each judge of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans shall appoint
 10 his own crier. If the council of the city of New Orleans shall fail to approve the
 11 salary, each crier's salary may be paid monthly from the consolidated judicial
 12 expense fund of the court, provided that such crier's salary does not exceed the
 13 amount paid to the crier on May 1, 1984. Any increase in such salary shall be
 14 subject to the prior approval of the council of the city of New Orleans.

15 §2496.2. Expenses of municipal and traffic court

16 A. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a majority of the judges
 17 of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans may authorize a payment from
 18 the consolidated judicial expense fund of the court to defray any expense of the court
 19 including salary supplements for any personnel as in their discretion may be
 20 necessary to expedite the business and function of the court.

21 * * *

22 §2496.3. First appearance hearing officer; appointment; salary; qualifications

23 A. There is hereby created the office of first appearance hearing officer of
 24 the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans.

25 B. There shall be only one first appearance officer. The first appearance
 26 hearing officer shall be appointed by a majority of the duly elected judges of the
 27 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans and shall be subject to removal at will
 28 by a majority of the judges of the court. The court shall adopt such rules as are

1 necessary to define the functions, duties, and operational procedures of the office of
2 the first appearance hearing officer.

3 * * *

4 E. The judges of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, sitting en
5 banc, and the city of New Orleans shall provide necessary support services and
6 personnel, including minute clerks and court reporters, for the office. The supporting
7 services and personnel shall be paid for by the city of New Orleans.

8 F. Quarters necessary for the conduct of the office of the first appearance
9 hearing officer shall be provided by the governing authority of the city of New
10 Orleans or the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans. The first appearance
11 hearing officer may hold hearings at the facilities where city prisoners are
12 incarcerated.

13 G. The first appearance hearing officer shall have all such powers and duties
14 not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this state, the constitution and laws
15 of the United States, and the rules of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New
16 Orleans, and the duties assigned to the hearing officer by the judges of that court,
17 including the following powers and duties:

18 * * *

19 (3) To sign orders including issuance of peace bonds for cases triable in the
20 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans.

21 * * *

22 (5) To fine and punish for contempt of court in the same manner as a judge
23 of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans as provided for in Code of
24 Criminal Procedure Articles 20 through 25.

25 * * *

26 §2496.4. Consolidated Judicial expense fund for the Municipal and Traffic Court of
27 New Orleans

28 A. There is hereby established the consolidated judicial expense fund for the
29 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, which shall be a special account for
30 use in administration of the court. The judicial administrator shall deposit into the

1 fund any monies specifically designated for such purpose. The judges of the court,
 2 en banc, shall have control over and administer the funds which are annually
 3 appropriated or otherwise authorized under the law and all disbursements made
 4 therefrom. The judges shall cause to be conducted an annual audit of the fund and
 5 the books and accounts relating thereto, and shall file the audit with the legislative
 6 auditor where it shall be available for public inspection.

7 B. The consolidated judicial expense fund may be used for any operating
 8 expense of the court, including salaries for court reporters, bailiffs, minute clerks,
 9 and other court personnel, in addition to any and all other funds, salaries, expenses,
 10 or other monies that are provided, authorized, or established by law. No salary shall
 11 be paid from the consolidated judicial expense fund to any judges of the court.

12 §2497. Deputy clerks; appointment; salaries; removal

13 A. The clerk of the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New
 14 Orleans shall appoint such deputies, assistants and employees as the legislature may
 15 provide. There shall not be less than twenty deputy clerks and other employees of
 16 the court.

17 B. All salaries of the clerks and deputy clerks of the ~~municipal court~~
 18 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans shall be paid by the city of New
 19 Orleans. In the event that the city shall refuse or fail to pay any such salaries, the
 20 judge, or judges, of the court shall withhold from the funds collected under the
 21 jurisdiction of the court sufficient money to pay any salaries not paid by the city,
 22 and, in such event, the judge, or judges, of the court shall deposit the money withheld
 23 in a separate bank account against which a judge, or judges thereof, shall draw
 24 appropriate checks to pay such salaries.

25 §2498. Appeal; proceedings; record; hearing

26 A. There shall be a right of appeal in all cases from the ~~municipal court~~
 27 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans to the criminal district court for the
 28 parish of Orleans. The appeals shall be on the law and the facts and shall be tried by
 29 the judge of the criminal district court to whom the appeal shall be allotted upon the
 30 records made and the evidence offered in the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic

1 it may adopt, the necessary number of ~~police~~ law enforcement officers to the court,
 2 to keep order and execute orders and decrees of the judges thereof.

3 §2500. Powers of judges, clerks, and court reporters

4 A. The judges of the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New
 5 Orleans and their clerks and court reporters may administer oaths and the judges may
 6 compel witnesses to appear and testify.

7 B. The court shall possess inherently all powers necessary for the exercise
 8 of its jurisdiction and the enforcement of its lawful orders including the authority to
 9 issue such writs and orders as may become necessary and the court has the power to
 10 punish for contempt, as provided in the ~~Louisiana Criminal Code of~~ Code of
 11 Criminal Procedure, Articles 20 through 25 as the same may from time to time be
 12 amended, which articles define contempt and prescribe the penalties therefor.

13 * * *

14 §2500.1. Additional costs; ~~municipal court probation department~~ Municipal and
 15 Traffic Court Probation Department; special fund

16 A. Any defendant, other than an indigent, who pleads guilty or is convicted
 17 of an offense by the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of the city of New
 18 Orleans shall be assessed costs not to exceed the sum of fifteen dollars for each
 19 offense, such costs to be in addition to any fine, clerk's fees or costs or any other fee
 20 or costs provided by law or sentence imposed by the court. When any defendant,
 21 other than an indigent, fails to pay the added costs referred to ~~hereinabove~~ in this
 22 Subsection, he shall be sentenced to a term of thirty days in the House of Detention.

23 B. When any surety, cash, or other bond posted in the ~~municipal court~~
 24 Municipal and Traffic Court of the city of New Orleans guaranteeing the appearance
 25 of any defendant in any case in the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of
 26 New Orleans has been forfeited, ~~said~~ the surety company or its local agent or its
 27 insurance company, or both, for which ~~said~~ the agent is writing bail bonds, shall be
 28 assessed the added costs provided for in Subsection A of this Section. The forfeiture
 29 of any bond referred to ~~hereinabove~~ in this Subsection shall not be set aside until the
 30 above costs have been paid, in addition to the other legal requirements of law having

1 been met for the setting aside of the forfeiture. Costs assessed against sureties and
 2 surety companies pursuant to this Section shall be collected and administered in the
 3 same manner as that set out in Subsection C of this Section.

4 C. Costs assessed against defendants pursuant to this Section shall be
 5 collected by the clerk of the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New
 6 Orleans. All sums so collected shall be remitted to the municipal and traffic court
 7 judicial administrator who shall deposit such sums in a bank or banks in the city of
 8 New Orleans in which deposits are insured or guaranteed by the federal government
 9 or any agency thereof. The deposits shall be credited to a special fund to be
 10 designated as the Municipal and Traffic Court Probation Department Fund which
 11 shall be administered by the judges of the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic
 12 Court of New Orleans.

13 D. There is hereby created a probation department in the ~~municipal court~~
 14 Municipal and Traffic Court of the city of New Orleans which shall be funded from
 15 the Municipal and Traffic Court Probation Department Fund along with funds which
 16 may be realized from federal or state grants and any other sums which may be
 17 appropriated by the council of the city of New Orleans. The purpose of the ~~said~~
 18 probation department is to provide staff to monitor the behavior of defendants and
 19 to develop a comprehensive probationary service program at the ~~municipal court~~
 20 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, which shall include but not be limited
 21 to release on recognizance, restitution, diversionary, and active probation programs.
 22 §2500.2. Additional court costs to defray expenses

23 A.(1) In all cases over which the Municipal and Traffic Court of New
 24 Orleans has jurisdiction, there shall be assessed as costs against every defendant who
 25 is convicted after trial or after he pleads guilty or who forfeits his bond a
 26 nonrefundable sum of thirty dollars, which shall be in addition to all other fines,
 27 costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed.

28 (2) The sums collected under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be
 29 remitted to the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans judicial

1 administrator, who shall deposit the sums to the credit of the ~~municipal court~~ court's
 2 consolidated judicial expense fund to be used by the court to defray its expenses.

3 B.(1) In all prosecutions in the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans,
 4 including all traffic violations other than parking, there shall be taxed as costs against
 5 every defendant, who is convicted after trial or plea of guilty or nolo contendere or
 6 who forfeits his bond, the sum of five dollars, which shall be in addition to all other
 7 fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed and which shall be transmitted to the
 8 clerk of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans to be used by the court to
 9 defray its expenses.

10 (2) The Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans shall by court rule
 11 provide procedures for the timely collection and accounting of the fees imposed by
 12 this Section. All fees collected under this Section shall be remitted to the municipal
 13 and traffic court judicial administrator for deposit into a special fund designated as
 14 the municipal and traffic court consolidated judicial expense fund.

15 C. In all prosecutions in the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans,
 16 including all traffic violations other than parking, there shall be taxed as additional
 17 costs against every defendant who is convicted after trial or plea of guilty or nolo
 18 contendere or who forfeits his bond, a sum not to exceed thirty dollars, which shall
 19 be in addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed and which
 20 shall be transmitted to the consolidated judicial expense fund of the Municipal and
 21 Traffic Court of New Orleans to be used by the court to defray its expenses.

22 §2500.4. Enumeration of fees; copies; retrieval fee

23 In addition to any other fees authorized by law, the clerk of the New Orleans
 24 Municipal and Traffic Court may demand and receive the following fees:

- 25 (1) Copies per page uncertified, one dollar.
- 26 (2) Copies per page certified, two dollars.
- 27 (3) Computer-generated chronologies uncertified copies, two dollars.
- 28 (4) Computer-generated chronologies certified copies, three dollars.
- 29 (5) File retrieval fee, twenty dollars.

1 §2501. Fines imposed remitted monthly to city treasurer

2 Each judge of the ~~municipal court~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New
 3 Orleans shall ~~see to it~~ ensure that all fines imposed by him are collected and remitted
 4 monthly to the city treasurer of New Orleans.

5 §2512. Initiation of proceedings by affidavit or by bill of information in the
 6 municipal and traffic ~~courts~~ court

7 Notwithstanding Code of Criminal Procedure Article 382, all proceedings in
 8 the ~~municipal and traffic courts~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans shall
 9 be initiated by affidavit or bill of information. The affidavit shall consist of the
 10 sworn statement of the complainant, or the ~~police~~ law enforcement officer, filed with
 11 the court on a form approved by the respective court. The city council of the city of
 12 New Orleans may designate by ordinance certain police officials who shall have the
 13 power to take oaths, and verify affidavits filed by other members of the New Orleans
 14 police department, the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office or the constable. The city
 15 attorney of the city of New Orleans or any of his assistants may also initiate
 16 prosecutions by affidavit or bill of information on information and belief in the
 17 ~~municipal and traffic courts~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans.

18 §2513. Conduct of trials; rules of evidence in the municipal and traffic ~~courts~~ court

19 The trials of all cases in the ~~municipal and traffic courts~~ Municipal and
 20 Traffic Court of New Orleans, and the rules of evidence applicable thereto, shall be
 21 the same as govern the trials of misdemeanors under Title 15 of the Louisiana
 22 Revised Statutes of 1950 as they presently exist or as they may be hereafter
 23 amended.

24 §2514. Appeals; cost bond for transcripts from the municipal and traffic ~~courts~~ court

25 The city council of New Orleans may provide by ordinance that in all appeals
 26 from the ~~municipal and traffic courts~~ Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans,
 27 there shall be required the posting of a reasonable costs bond to defray the cost of
 28 preparing the transcript in connection with any such appeal. This shall not be
 29 construed to bar any appellant from taking an appeal in forma pauperis.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 Section 2. R.S. 13:2501.1, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2507.1, and 2509 are hereby repealed
2 in their entirety.

3 Section 3. The judges of the existing Traffic Court of New Orleans shall be
4 transferred to the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, comprising of Divisions E,
5 F, G, and H.

6 Section 4. The judge designated as the senior and administrative judge of the
7 Municipal Court at the time this Act takes effect, January 1, 2017, shall become the senior
8 and administrative judge of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans the remainder
9 of his term of office. There shall also be a vice senior and administrative judge of the
10 Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans. The judge designated as the senior and
11 administrative judge of the New Orleans Traffic Court shall serve as the vice senior and
12 administrative judge of the consolidated court. The vice senior and administrative judge shall
13 maintain all of the rights and privileges of the senior and administrative judge. The position
14 of senior administrative judge and vice senior administrative judge shall alternate between
15 the two courts based on seniority. In the event the senior judge declines the position of
16 senior and administrative judge, the judges sitting en banc shall choose a judge to assume
17 the position.

18 Section 5.(A) It is the intent of the legislature that the consolidation of these offices
19 should be accomplished with the least possible disruption of services and the least possible
20 expenditure of public funds; therefore, there is hereby created the New Orleans Municipal
21 and Traffic Court Task Force, hereinafter referred to as the "task force".

22 (B) The task force shall consist of fourteen members as follows:

- 23 (1) The four judges of the New Orleans Traffic Court.
- 24 (2) The four judges of the New Orleans Municipal Court.
- 25 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary.
- 26 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B.
- 27 (5) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- 28 (6) The president of the Senate, or his designee.
- 29 (7) The chair of the Criminal Justice Committee of the New Orleans City Council.
- 30 (8) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.

1 (C)(1) The purpose of the task force shall be to study and provide for a
2 recommendation related to the reduction in judges through attrition and to establish the
3 methods and procedures to effectuate the consolidation of the New Orleans Traffic Court
4 and the New Orleans Municipal Court, and to specifically consider in its study, a reduction
5 in judges, the operation of the courts, their governance, administration, information
6 technology, legal authority, subject matter jurisdiction, process and operation, economies
7 of scale and greater efficiencies, protection of rights and access to justice and procedural
8 fairness.

9 (2) The task force shall work in conjunction with the Judicial Council of the
10 Supreme Court and the National Center for State Courts.

11 (D) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation or per diem.

12 (E) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
13 speaker of the House and the president of the Senate, no later than thirty days prior to the
14 start of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

15 Section 6. The legislature hereby specifically states that this Act is in no way and
16 to no extent intended to nor shall it be construed in any manner which will impair the
17 contractual or other obligations of any office transferred by this Act.

18 Section 7. This Act shall not be construed or applied in any way which will prevent
19 full compliance with the requirements of any Act of Congress of the United States or any
20 regulation made thereunder by which federal aid or other federal assistance has been or
21 hereafter is made available.

22 Section 8. This Section and Section 5 of this Act shall become effective upon
23 signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for
24 bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section
25 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved
26 by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

27 Section 9. Sections 1 through 4, 6, and 7 of this Act shall become effective on
28 January 1, 2017.

29 Section 11. Section 1 of Act 227 of the 2013 Legislative Session of the Louisiana
30 Legislature is hereby amended and reenacted as follows:

1 Section 1.(A) The commissioner of administration shall have the authority to enter
 2 into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the BioDistrict New Orleans to allow the former
 3 Louisiana State Supreme Court site and the former state office building site located at 325
 4 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, to be utilized as the new civil district court site or
 5 to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the city of New Orleans or to transfer
 6 such site to the city of New Orleans either for the appraised value or in exchange for value
 7 equivalent to the appraised value.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____