

2024 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

JUDGES/SUPREME COURT: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides for the statewide election of supreme court justices (Item #4)

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana and to repeal Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to supreme court elections; to provide for statewide election of supreme court justices; to provide for the elimination of supreme court districts; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§3. Supreme Court; Composition; Judgments; Elections; Terms

Section 3. The supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment. Each justice shall be elected at a statewide election. The term of a supreme court ~~judge~~ justice shall be ten years.

Section 2. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to repeal Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 Section 3. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
2 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5,
3 2024.

4 Section 4. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
5 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
6 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
7 follows:

8 Do you support an amendment to eliminate the supreme court districts and
9 instead provide for the statewide election of supreme court justices? (Amends
10 Article V, Section 3; Repeals Article V, Section 4)

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 18 Original

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Wright

Abstract: Eliminates the use of supreme court districts and instead provides for the statewide election of supreme court justices.

Present constitution provides that the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Present constitution provides that the state shall be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one justice shall be elected from each.

Proposed constitutional amendment repeals present constitution and instead provides for statewide election of all supreme court justices.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 5, 2024.

(Amends Article V, Section 3; repeals Article V, Section 4)