HLS 24RS-1062 **ENGROSSED**

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

COURTS/MAYORS: Requests a study of the feasibility and practicality of mayor's courts

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To authorize and request the House Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on
3	Judiciary B to meet and to function as a joint legislative committee to study and
4	make recommendations with respect to the feasibility and practicality of mayor's
5	courts and to report the findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to the
6	convening of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
7	WHEREAS, the mayor's courts of Louisiana have jurisdiction over violations of
8	municipal ordinances and may impose fines, imprisonment, probation, and court costs as
9	authorized in such ordinances; and
10	WHEREAS, a mayor's court jurisdiction is concurrent with the courts of record,
11	which have such jurisdiction; and
12	WHEREAS, a mayor's court may conduct trials, issue peace bonds, warrants,
13	subpoenas, and summons, fix bail in criminal cases, and collect utility debts within the
14	municipality when the amount in dispute does not exceed five thousand dollars; and
15	WHEREAS, mayor's courts exist in most municipalities, except where a city court
16	has been established; and
17	WHEREAS, in 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that having a mayor serve as
18	judge is unfair to defendants if a town brings in a substantial part of its revenue through the
19	court and if the mayor is responsible for the town's finances; and

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial College advises towns with a mayor's court to 2 appoint someone other than the mayor to act as judge if court collections account for at least 3 ten percent of their overall revenue; and 4 WHEREAS, in 2022, of the three hundred one municipalities and two combined 5 city-parish governments required to file audits, ninety-one of the municipalities with a 6 mayor's court collected ten percent or more of their revenue through fines and forfeitures in 7 a single year. 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 9 authorize and request the House Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on 10 Judiciary B to meet and function as a joint legislative committee to study the feasibility and 11 practicality of mayor's courts and to report the findings of the joint committee to the 12 legislature prior to the convening of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature of 13 Louisiana. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any 15 report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research 16 Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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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Jordan

Requests a study of the feasibility and practicality of mayor's courts.