

2024 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 6

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

JUDGES. Constitutional Amendment to increase the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court. (Items #4, 5, and 13)(2/3 - CA13s1(A))

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court; to provide for two additional justices to the court; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

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, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§3. Supreme Court; Composition; Judgments; Terms

Section 3. (A) Effective until January 1, 2025, The ~~the~~ supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment. The term of a supreme court judge shall be ten years.

(B) Effective on January 1, 2025, the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices, five of whom must concur to render judgment. The term of a supreme court justice shall be ten years.

§4. Supreme Court; Districts

1 Section 4. ~~(A) The state shall be divided into at least six supreme court~~
2 ~~districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each. The~~ supreme court
3 ~~districts and the number of judges assigned to each~~ district ~~on the effective date of~~
4 ~~this constitution are retained,~~ subject to change by law enacted by two-thirds of the
5 elected members of each house of the legislature.

6 (B) Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, no supreme
7 court justice in office at the time of the adoption of the amendment to this
8 Section, nor his or her successor, shall, as a result of this amendment, have their
9 term diminished or extended. The initial term for a new justice elected to a
10 district that is drawn without an incumbent justice may be shorter than ten
11 years. Any decision reached by a majority of the supreme court after the
12 passage of this constitutional amendment, but before its full implementation by
13 the legislature, shall be binding and be given full effect.

14 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to
15 the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5,
16 2024.

17 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election
18 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
19 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
20 follows:

21 Do you support an amendment to increase the composition of the Louisiana
22 Supreme Court from one chief justice and six associate justices to one chief
23 justice and eight associate justices?

24 (Amends Article V, Sections 3 and 4)

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 6 Engrossed

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Seabaugh

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 increases the number of associate justices from six to eight, and provides that five justices must concur to render judgment.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that no supreme court justice in office at the time of the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment, nor his or her successor, shall, as a result of this amendment, have their term diminished or extended.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 2024.

(Amends Const. Art. V, Sec. 3 and 4)