

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Judicial Council and the Office of the Judicial Administrator of the Supreme Court of Louisiana to study and make recommendations concerning certain aspects and procedures of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, including the method by which cases are randomly assigned to judges and the feasibility of creating a parishwide court in East Baton Rouge Parish with the sitting judges presiding in multiple cities of the parish.

WHEREAS, there have been drastic population changes in East Baton Rouge Parish in general and in particular since August 29, 2005; and

WHEREAS, it should be determined if there is the possibility that this change in population has an effect upon an individual's right to a fair and impartial judge being randomly allotted in any individual case; and

WHEREAS, the procedure utilized for random selection of judges for cases should be reviewed, and a report should be made on the method by which judges are assigned to civil and criminal sections; and

WHEREAS, it should be determined whether the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish are having their ability to have an equal chance of being tried by any one of the fifteen judges in a civil or criminal matter diluted because of the procedure being utilized by the Nineteenth Judicial District Court in assigning judges to an individual case and the methodology by which the court determines who will sit on civil or criminal dockets; and

WHEREAS, it should be determined whether the high court costs being charged in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court are denying some people fair access to the district court in particular or whether some people are having to lower their demands in order to

meet the lower jurisdictional limits of the city court or whether some people are being denied access to any judicial determination of valid grievances because of the high cost of litigating in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court; and

WHEREAS, a possible solution to some of these problems could be the creation of a parishwide court in East Baton Rouge Parish having civil jurisdiction of less than fifty thousand dollars and having criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases; and

WHEREAS, all people in the parish would have greater access to the courts if the parishwide court were physically located in multiple cities within the parish as are multi-parish district courts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Judicial Council and the Office of the Judicial Administrator of the Supreme Court of Louisiana to study and make recommendations concerning certain aspects and procedures of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, including the method by which cases are randomly assigned to judges and the feasibility of creating a parishwide court in East Baton Rouge Parish with the judges presiding in multiple cities within the parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Judicial Council and the Office of the Judicial Administrator of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES