

Proposed Louisiana Revised Statutes
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Title 13 – Courts and Judicial Procedure

Chapter _____. Louisiana Judicial Resource Realignment Commission
§13:_____. Legislative findings and intent

A. The legislature finds that:

Equal access to justice requires the timely resolution of cases across all judicial districts of the state.

Significant disparities exist among judicial districts with respect to caseload volume, case complexity, time to disposition, and available judicial and clerical resources.

The legislature bears constitutional responsibility for the creation, allocation, and funding of judgeships and related court resources, and such responsibility must be exercised on the basis of reliable, objective information.

Prior voluntary efforts to study judicial workload and resource allocation have proven insufficient to produce comprehensive, standardized, and comparable statewide data.

B. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to:

Establish a mechanism for the collection and analysis of anonymized, aggregated administrative data relating to judicial workload and court operations solely for the purpose of legislative resource planning.

Ensure that no data collected or analyzed pursuant to this Chapter is used to evaluate, discipline, sanction, or otherwise assess the conduct or performance of any individual judge or judicial officer.

Preserve the exclusive constitutional authority of the judicial branch, and of the Louisiana Supreme Court in particular, over judicial discipline, ethics, and adjudicative decision-making.

§13: _____. Definitions

For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Commission" means the Louisiana Judicial Resource Realignment Commission established by this Chapter.

"Administrative judicial data" means non-adjudicative information relating to court operations, including but not limited to case filings, dispositions, case age, continuances, recusals, staffing levels, and resource utilization, but excluding deliberative communications, draft opinions, internal judicial reasoning, or case-specific adjudicative analysis.

"Anonymized data" means data that has been transformed such that no individual judge, judicial officer, or court employee can be identified directly or by reasonable inference.

"Judicial officer" means any judge, magistrate, commissioner, hearing officer, or justice of the peace exercising judicial authority under the laws or constitution of this state.

"Court personnel" means clerks of court, deputy clerks, court administrators, and other employees of a court acting in their official capacities.

§13: _____. Establishment of the Louisiana Judicial Resource Realignment Commission

A. There is hereby established the Louisiana Judicial Resource Realignment Commission.

B. The Commission shall be housed administratively within the legislative branch and shall have no authority over adjudicative matters, judicial decision-making, or judicial discipline.

C. The Commission shall consist of members appointed as follows:

Appointees of the president of the senate.

Appointees of the speaker of the house of representatives.

At least one member with demonstrated expertise in statistics, data science, or public-sector performance analysis.

At least one member with experience in court administration.

D. The Commission may invite representatives of the judicial branch to serve as non-voting liaisons.

§13: ____ . Scope of authority

A. The Commission is authorized solely to:

Collect administrative judicial data as defined in this Chapter.

Analyze such data in anonymized and aggregated form.

Prepare reports and recommendations regarding the allocation, reallocation, creation, or elimination of judgeships and court resources.

B. The Commission shall have no authority to:

Evaluate the performance of any individual judge or judicial officer.

Rank, score, or compare individual judges.

Recommend disciplinary action of any kind.

Interfere with or review adjudicative decisions.

§13: ____ . Duty to cooperate; compelled production

A. Judges, judicial officers, clerks of court, and court personnel shall cooperate with reasonable requests of the Commission for administrative judicial data within the scope of this Chapter.

B. Upon request of the Commission, the appropriate standing committee of the house of representatives or senate may issue subpoenas for the production of administrative judicial data.

C. Failure to comply with a subpoena issued pursuant to this Section shall be enforceable in the same manner as any other lawful legislative subpoena.

D. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize inquiry into adjudicative deliberations or judicial decision-making.

§13: ____ . Anonymization, aggregation, and data handling

A. All administrative judicial data collected pursuant to this Chapter shall be anonymized prior to analysis or dissemination.

B. Data shall be reported only at the level of judicial districts, courts, or statewide aggregates, and shall not be disaggregated to a level that permits identification of individual judges or personnel.

C. The Commission shall employ statistical methods designed to prevent re-identification by reasonable inference.

D. Raw, non-anonymized data shall be accessible only to Commission staff and contracted researchers subject to confidentiality agreements.

§13: ____ . Confidentiality and public records exemption

A. All administrative judicial data collected under this Chapter, including raw data and intermediate analytical materials, is declared confidential and privileged.

B. Such data shall not constitute a public record for purposes of the Louisiana Public Records Act.

C. Only anonymized and aggregated reports prepared pursuant to this Chapter may be released publicly.

D. Any person who knowingly discloses or attempts to re-identify confidential data in violation of this Section shall be subject to penalties as provided by law.

§13: ____ . Use of findings

A. Reports of the Commission shall be used solely for:

Legislative consideration of judicial resource allocation.

Budgetary and structural planning.

Evaluation of statewide access-to-justice needs.

B. No report produced under this Chapter shall be admissible or used in any judicial disciplinary proceeding, civil action, or administrative adjudication against any judge or judicial officer.

§13: ____ . Construction

This Chapter shall be liberally construed to promote evidence-based legislative decision-making while preserving the independence of the judiciary and the constitutional separation of powers.