



LOUISIANA STATE LAW INSTITUTE

PAUL M. HEBERT LAW CENTER, ROOM W127

1 EAST CAMPUS DRIVE

BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-1016

(225) 578-0200

FAX: (225) 578-0211

EMAIL: LAWINSTITUTE@LSLI.ORG

WWW.LSLI.ORG

December 16, 2025

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150 OF THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Louisiana State Law Institute respectfully submits its report to the legislature relative to small and speedy claims.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Holdridge", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Guy Holdridge
Director

GH/pc

Enclosure

cc: Representative Robby Carter

email cc: David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library
drplibrary@legis.la.gov

Secretary of State, Ms. Nancy Landry
admin@sos.louisiana.gov

**LOUISIANA STATE LAW INSTITUTE
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE IN RESPONSE TO
HR NO. 150 OF THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION**

Relative to small or speedy claims

Prepared for the
Louisiana Legislature on

December 16, 2025

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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* * *

Judge Guy Holdridge, Reporter
Josef P. Ventulan, Staff Attorney

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBBY CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature regarding the creation of small or speedy claims procedures for delictual actions under fifty thousand dollars.

WHEREAS, tort law functions to provide a remedy to an injured party and impose liability on the party who committed the wrong; and

WHEREAS, Civil Code Article 2315 provides that any act whatever of man that causes damage to another obliges him by whose fault it happened to repair it; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that those who have suffered a harm receive justice without undue delay; and

WHEREAS, injured parties rely on the court system for compensation, thus efficient and timely resolution of cases is crucial; and

WHEREAS, high court costs and docket backlogs create significant delays which leaves injured parties waiting for the compensation they deserve; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Louisiana Legislature to support a system where injured parties in Louisiana receive timely and fair compensation; and

WHEREAS, implementing a streamlined procedure for injured parties with damages under fifty-thousand dollars would expedite the court process granting them a swifter access to justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature regarding the creation of small or speedy claims procedures for delictual actions under fifty thousand dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 16, 2025

To: Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE IN RESPONSE TO
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150 OF THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION**

House Resolution No. 150 of the 2024 Regular Session requested the Law Institute to “study and make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature regarding the creation of small or speedy claims procedures for delictual actions under fifty thousand dollars.” In fulfillment of this request, the Law Institute assigned this project to its Code of Civil Procedure Committee, which operates under the leadership of retired Judge Guy Holdridge as Reporter.

The Committee first noted that a similar study was conducted in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 108 of the 2012 Regular Session, tasking the Law Institute to “study certain aspects of civil jury trial procedure” “to determine ways in which the . . . process can be streamlined and made less costly.” That study resulted in House Bill No. 321 of the 2013 Regular Session, which was ultimately deferred. It was then determined that the substance of House Bill No. 321 of the 2013 Regular Session could be modified to serve as the basis of the Committee’s response to the present resolution. When evaluating and revising its previous revisions, the Committee also studied similar procedural frameworks within other jurisdictions. After amending its previous proposal, the Committee met to consider the changes.

During its review, the Committee discussed various issues, including the limited level of demand for jury trials of delictual actions under fifty thousand dollars. The Committee determined that the promulgation of new rules for jury trials of claims less than fifty thousand dollars would create multiple trial frameworks and cause confusion to practicing attorneys and the courts, leading to even more delays, particularly in smaller parishes where trial date availability is limited. Ultimately, the proposal did not achieve sufficient support for approval by the Code of Civil Procedure Committee; rather, the Committee suggested that the Legislature review the Law Institute’s previous recommendations set forth in House Bill No. 321 of the 2013 Regular Session as a framework for potential new legislation.

In conclusion, the Law Institute recommends that no change to the relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure be made at this time. Nevertheless, the Code of Civil Procedure Committee will continue to monitor this issue, meet with various stakeholders regarding new developments, and reevaluate the law as needed.