

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 397

BY SENATOR REESE

ELECTED OFFICIALS. Provides for vacancies caused by retirement, resignation, or removal from elected office. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:586(C), relative to vacancies; to provide for vacancies when an elected official has retired, resigned, or been removed from office; to prohibit an official who has retired, resigned, or been removed from office from being appointed to or qualifying for election to the same office in which the official resigned, retired, or was removed; to provide for certain exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:586(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§586. Vacancies caused by retirement, resignation, or removal; prohibitions

* * *

C. This Section does not purport to impact the constitutional authority of the supreme court to appoint a sitting or retired judge to any court, and the provisions of Subsection A of this Section shall not be applicable to judgeships.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 397 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Reese

Present law provides that no elected official who has retired, resigned, or been removed from state or local elective office can be appointed to succeed himself in the office from which the official retired, resigned, or was removed, unless removal was due to a defect that is capable of being legally cured prior to qualifying for the election to fill the vacancy.

Present law prohibits an elected official who has retired, resigned, or been removed from state or local elective office from being eligible as a candidate at an election called to fill the vacancy created by the retirement, resignation, or removal of the elected official, unless the removal was due to a defect that is capable of being legally cured prior to qualifying for the election to fill the vacancy.

Proposed law provides that present law does not purport to impact the constitutional authority of the supreme court to appoint a sitting or retired judge to any court. Provides that proposed law does not apply to judgeships.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 18:586(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by SenateSenate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.