

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 383

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Fire Chief Operations to examine the position of fire chief in the fire and police civil service, including providing for a uniform definition in state law for the position of fire chief, and to provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the members of the House of Representatives no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session.

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 16 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides for a system of classified fire and police civil service that is applicable to all municipalities having a population exceeding thirteen thousand persons and operating a regularly paid fire and police department and to all parishes and fire protection districts operating a regularly paid fire department; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:2531 et seq. additionally provides for a system of classified fire and police civil service that is applicable to all municipalities having a population of not less than seven thousand persons and not more than thirteen thousand persons; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has enacted a number of bills over the years to change the fire and police civil service laws, and these changes have directly impacted the employment of firemen and policemen throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, although there have been many changes to the fire and police civil service laws, these changes have not provided for a uniform definition for the position of fire chief; and

WHEREAS, a fire chief plays a crucial role in ensuring the efficient and effective functioning of a fire department; and

WHEREAS, the fire chief is the top executive in a fire department, responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating the department's activities to protect life and property; and

WHEREAS, the fire chief has ultimate supervisory authority over operations, personnel, and administration of a fire department and is directly responsible to the municipal, parish, or fire protection government or the appointing authority for the management and performance of the department; and

WHEREAS, a fire chief's duties may include fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, and disaster management; and

WHEREAS, because a fire chief has numerous duties and responsibilities, the position of fire chief should be a full-time position, and no person should serve as fire chief on a part-time, volunteer, or purely contractual basis; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to provide for a comprehensive review of the duties and responsibilities of fire chiefs throughout the state and to provide for a uniform definition in state law for the position of fire chief.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Task Force on Fire Chief Operations to examine the position of fire chief in the fire and police civil service, including providing for a uniform definition in state law for the position of fire chief, and to provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the members of the House of Representatives and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772 no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs or his designee.
- (2) The chairman of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee.
- (3) The state examiner of municipal fire and police civil service or his designee.
- (4) The president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (5) The executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (6) The president of the Louisiana Municipal Association or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the name of any designee to the state examiner of municipal fire and police civil service no later than August 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 1, 2026, at the call of the chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the office of the state examiner of municipal fire and police civil service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate following the conclusion of its business or February 15, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state examiner of municipal fire and police civil service, the president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, the executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the president of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES