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## DIGEST

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HB 65 Original

2020 Regular Session

Dwight

**Abstract:** Provides exceptions to the crime of payroll padding by a sheriff when no opponent qualifies to run against an incumbent sheriff or when an incumbent sheriff's reelection has been officially declared by an election official.

Present law provides that during the six months preceding a gubernatorial election and during the time interval between the gubernatorial election and the first day of July following election, it shall be unlawful for any sheriff to engage in any of the following:

- (1) Increase the number of deputies or employees in his office by more than five percent over the average number of such employees for each of the first six months of the 12 months preceding the election.
- (2) Increase the payroll or other operating expenses of his office more than 15% over its average amount of such expenditures for each of the months of the first six months of the 12 months preceding the election.
- (3) Transfer title and ownership of the capital assets of his office of a value in excess of 10% of the total value of assets as reflected in the current inventory filed in the office of the sheriff on the date of the primary election.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that these provisions shall not apply when the increases or decreases are necessitated by flood, invasion by common enemy, or other public emergency; nor to any increase based upon the utilization of additional revenue from a tax district election or to an increase necessitated by the completion of a new or expansion of an existing prison facility or an emergency communications call or dispatch center.

Proposed law extends the present law exceptions to apply to the following:

- (1) An incumbent sheriff, against whom no person has qualified to run, for any transfers or increases that occur after the date the qualifying period closes for the gubernatorial election through the first day of July following the election.
- (2) An incumbent sheriff, who is reelected to office, for any transfers or increases that occur after the date the official election results are declared by the election official through the first day

of July following the election.

(Amends R.S. 14:139.1(C))