

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Reform to study and make recommendations regarding all aspects of the municipal fire and police civil service system, including the promotion of employees of fire and police departments and to provide a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the administration of the system and the management of such employees to the House of Representatives not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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 many bills over the years to change the municipal 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, in recent years, many have taken a particular interest in amending the municipal fire and police civil service laws relative to the promotion of firemen and policemen; and

WHEREAS, the current municipal fire and police civil service laws require the municipal fire and police civil service board in each jurisdiction to establish and maintain promotion and competitive employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to various classes of positions in the classified service; and

WHEREAS, current provisions, relative to the promotion employment list, generally require the names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test to be placed on the promotion employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their total departmental seniority; and

WHEREAS, departmental seniority means the total employment computed for an employee beginning with the last date on which he was regularly and permanently appointed and has worked continuously, to and including the date of computation; and

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs has heard several bills during recent legislative sessions that provide exceptions to the general provisions, including bills that require the names of persons to be placed on the promotion employment list, from highest to lowest, according to their total promotional seniority; and

WHEREAS, promotional seniority means the total cumulative employment in a class of positions of the next lower class from which a promotion is to be made; and

WHEREAS, concern is growing among those in the fire protection and law enforcement ranks regarding the many exceptions being made for multiple jurisdictions as it is argued that the lack of consistency threatens the long-term viability of fire and police departments; and

WHEREAS, many believe that due to expanding fire protection and law enforcement responsibilities and decreasing resources, maintaining a highly qualified and motivated workforce has become one of the greatest challenges facing fire protection and law enforcement agencies today; and

WHEREAS, the stakeholders have expressed interest in making changes in the municipal fire and police civil service system particularly with regard to promotions within the system, but have also expressed their desire that a compromise agreement be put forth by those who are proposing changes to the system and those who are opposed to such changes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Reform to study and make recommendations regarding all aspects of the municipal fire and police civil service system, including the promotion of employees of fire and police departments and to report its findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the administration of the system and the management of such employees to the House of Representatives not later than sixty days prior to convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed 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 Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee.
- (6) The president of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Association or his designee.
- (9) The president of the Baton Rouge Union of Police or his designee.
- (10) The state examiner for the Louisiana Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service or his designee.
- (11) The president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (12) The president of the Louisiana Municipal Association or his designee.
- (13) The president of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs or his designee shall call the first meeting of the task force, and the meeting shall be held no later than August 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the first meeting the members shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all designees shall be named no later than July 1, 2020.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES