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## DIGEST

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HB 163 Original

2023 Regular Session

Selders

**Abstract:** Provides for employment of a secretary of the Baton Rouge municipal fire and police civil service board.

Present law creates and provides for two fire and police civil service systems: (1) one applicable to any municipality which operates paid police and fire departments and which has a population of not fewer than 13,000 persons (large municipalities); and (2) one applicable to any parish, fire protection district, or municipality with a population of fewer than 13,000, but not fewer than 7,000 persons (small municipalities).

Present law relative to both systems, provides for a fire and police civil service board in each local jurisdiction. Provides that the board is composed of five members who serve without compensation. Further provides that the board shall have a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary.

Present law relative to the system applicable to large municipalities requires that the office of board secretary be filled in one of the following ways:

- (1) By electing a board member.
- (2) By appointing the clerk or secretary-treasurer of the municipality.
- (3) By employing on a part-time basis any other person at a salary not to exceed \$1,250 per month.

Proposed law provides an exception for the city of Baton Rouge; authorizes the municipal fire and police civil service board to fill the office of secretary by employing unclassified personnel whom the board deems qualified. Provides that the secretary shall receive compensation and benefits comparable to that of other full-time personnel employed in similar positions or performing similar job functions. Provides that the secretary is solely accountable to the board and serves at the pleasure of the board.

(Adds R.S. 33:2476.7)