
DIGEST

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HB 255 Original

2024 Regular Session

Owen

Abstract: Relative to the classified police service in the city of Leesville, changes the method of appointment for filling vacancies in the promotional class.

Present constitution creates a fire and police civil service system applicable to municipalities of over 13,000 in population and parishes and fire protection districts. Provides that the system is subject to Art. XIV, §15.1 of the 1921 Constitution made statutory by the 1974 Constitution. 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; 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.

Proposed law retains present constitution and present law.

Present law, relative to both systems, provides that "departmental seniority" refers to the period of continuous employment in the department. Defines "promotional seniority" to mean the total cumulative employment in a class of positions of the next lower class from which a promotion is to be made. Specifies further relative to employment counted toward seniority in the next lower class.

Present law, relative to both systems, provides that a municipal fire and police civil service board is created in the parish, municipal, and fire protection district government. Requires the board to establish and maintain employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to various classes of positions in the classified service. Requires that names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test be placed on the promotion employment list for the tested class, from highest to lowest, according to departmental seniority.

Present law requires that vacant positions be filled by reinstatement or reemployment. If the position cannot be filled in this manner, then the position must be filled by the person on the promotion list with the greatest departmental seniority. Present law provides exceptions for certain police departments, including a specific exception for police departments in the cities of Broussard, Carencro, Rayne, Scott, and Youngsville. Present law requires the appointing authorities in those cities to select and appoint to any vacancy a person who is among the three highest in departmental seniority.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally makes present law exception for the cities of Broussard, Carencro, Rayne, Scott, and Youngsville applicable to the police department in the city of Leesville.

(Adds R.S. 33:2554(C)(4))