
DIGEST

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HB 278 Original

2025 Regular Session

Adams

Abstract: Provides relative to the qualifications of the employee members of the fire and police civil service board.

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, creates a municipal fire and police civil service board in each parish, municipality, and fire protection district composed of five members appointed by the respective governing body. Present law generally requires that each member of the board be a citizen of the U.S. and a resident of the area for which fire or police protection is provided for at least five years preceding his appointment. Additionally requires each member to be a qualified voter of the area at the time of his appointment and to serve without compensation.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires that at least two members of the board be appointed who shall be first nominated and elected by and from the regular employees of the fire and police departments. Requires the members to be residents of the parish in which the area they are to serve is located for a period of at least five years preceding their appointment provided that such residency exception is approved by the local governing authority.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that, notwithstanding present law, the two members elected by and from the fire and the police departments are not required to be residents or qualified voters of the area in which they are appointed to serve or residents of the parish in which the area is located provided that such exceptions are approved by the local governing authority.

Proposed law removes the requirement that the local governing authority approve the qualified voter

and residency exceptions.

(Amends R.S. 33:2476(B)(1)(c) and 2536(B)(1)(c))