

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 516 (SB 447)

2026 Regular Session

Bass

Existing 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 existing constitution (Art. XIV, §15.1 of the 1921 constitution made statutory by the 1974 constitution).

Existing law (R.S. 33:2471 and 2531) 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.

Existing law (R.S. 33:2473) relative to the system applicable to large municipalities, 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.

Existing law (R.S. 33:2551.1) requires the local fire and police civil service board to establish and maintain employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to various classes of positions. Required that names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test be placed on the promotion employment list according to departmental seniority.

Existing law (R.S. 33:2491) provides for an exception for the Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Crowley police departments, requiring that names be placed on the promotion employment list according to their promotional seniority. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, then the names must be placed on the promotion employment list according to departmental seniority.

New law retains existing law and adds to the exception for the Bossier City Police Department, requiring that names be placed on the promotion employment list according to their promotional seniority. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, then the names must be placed on the promotion employment list according to departmental seniority.

Existing law (R.S. 33:2492) provides that competitive tests shall be held only as the needs of the service require and shall be given for classes comprising only the following duties or positions:

- (1) Chief of the departmental service.
- (2) The entrance or lowest ranking class in the classified service.
- (3) The entrance or lowest ranking class in any group of classes where the various classes have been divided into groups by the classification plan.
- (4) Operation and maintenance of radio, fire alarm, police alarm, and other signal systems.

For the city of Shreveport, operations, management, and supervision of radio, fire alarm, police alarm, and other signal systems.

- (5) Automotive or fire apparatus mechanics and repairmen.
- (6) Secretary to the chief.
- (7) Departmental records clerk.
- (8) For a position in any class in the classified service after reasonable efforts by preceding methods provided by in existing law have failed to produce names of persons eligible for regular appointment thereto.

New law retains existing law but provides that competitive tests shall be held for the additional following duties or positions:

- (1) Operations, management, and supervision of radio, fire alarm, police alarm, and other signal systems for the city of Bossier.
- (2) Jail superintendent for the Bossier City Police Department.

Existing law (R.S. 33:2498) provides that whenever an entire class is abolished in the classified service of the Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Crowley police departments, the regular employees of the class shall be demoted to lower classes and priority to positions shall be governed by total promotional seniority earned in the class in the order of highest to lowest. New law retains existing law and includes the Bossier City Police Department.

Effective May 29, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 33:2491 and 2492(7)(h); adds R.S. 33:2492(7)(iii) and (i), 2494(C)(8) and 2498(E))