

Existing law provides for a pension and relief fund for firefighters in the city of New Orleans. Also provides for a board of trustees to administer the fund.

Existing law provides for the membership of the board of trustees. Prior law provided for a 10 member board composed as follows:

- (1) The superintendent of the fire department.
- (2) The director of finance of the city of New Orleans.
- (3) Five members elected from the active ranks of the department.
- (4) Three members elected from the ranks of retired members of the department.

New law changes the total number of board member from 10 to seven. Retains the Superintendent of the fire department and the director of finance of the city of New Orleans as members. Provides that two members instead of five are elected from the active ranks of the department. Provides that two members instead of three are elected from the ranks of retired members of the department. And adds one member who is domiciled in and an elector of the city of New Orleans who is appointed by the mayor subject to confirmation by the New Orleans city council. Further provides that a vacancy in this position is filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Existing law provides for a two-year term for all board members.

Prior law provided that the election to the board was held on the second Wed. in Dec. and that members so elected took office on the second Wed. in Jan. New law provides instead that the election is held on the fourth Wed. in Aug. and that members so elected take office at noon on the day following such election.

Prior law provided that only those members of the board elected or appointed from the active ranks of the department had the right to vote on any proposal to increase the assessment levied against the salary of each member of the fire force. New law repeals prior law.

Existing law authorizes the board to grant cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retirees and beneficiaries of retirees. New law requires approval of such COLAs by a two-thirds vote of the entire board.

Existing law requires the board to determine eligibility for any disability benefit. New law requires that disability benefits be approved by two-thirds of the entire board.

New law provides that the terms of the elected members of the board in office on the effective date of new law shall terminate on the effective date of new law; however, such members shall continue to serve until a successor is elected. New law further requires the board to call an election to fill the vacancies created by new law.

Effective upon signature by governor (June 12, 2013).

(Amends R.S. 11:3362, 3376(A) and (B), 3377(A)(intro. para.), and 3382(A))