

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 375

BY REPRESENTATIVE CROMER

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION: Provides for calling a constitutional convention

1 AN ACT

2 To provide for the calling of a constitutional convention for the purpose of framing a new
3 constitution; to fix the time and place for the convention; to provide for the
4 qualifications and appointment of delegates; to provide for the organization and staff
5 of the convention; to require that the constitution as adopted by the convention,
6 including any alternative provisions, be submitted to the qualified electors for
7 adoption and to provide relative to such submission; to require appropriation of funds
8 for the convention and provide with respect to convention funds; to fix the effective
9 date of the new constitution if approved by the electorate; and to provide for related
10 matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

13 (A) It has been more than forty-one years since the Constitution of Louisiana
14 became effective at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the document
15 which constitutes the state's basic law has been amended some one hundred eighty-three
16 times.

17 (B) The need to address a number of key policy areas that require constitutional
18 change has become apparent, including such matters as the state's tax structure and
19 budgetary practices that hamper the state's economic growth and competitiveness as well as
20 the quality of life of Louisiana residents; the dedication of state revenues and the resulting

1 inability of the legislature to allocate resources where needed, particularly for the needs of
2 health care and higher education; the fiscal restraints on local governments that dramatically
3 limit their authority to meet fiscal and budgetary demands; and many other matters.

4 (C) The constitution today contains many provisions that restrict the legislature in
5 effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and the document also includes extensive
6 provisions that are so detailed as to be statutory rather than constitutional in nature and, as
7 a result, require further constitutional amendment when any change is needed.

8 (D) A serious analysis and revision of the state constitution is needed if the state is
9 to conduct a genuine examination of the state's critical needs, to undertake an in-depth
10 consideration of reform proposals, and to craft provisions that allow for flexibility and
11 innovation in legislative solutions to problems of the present and the future.

12 Section 2. Call for convention; delegates. (A) A constitutional convention is hereby
13 called, to convene on January 9, 2017, at noon, which shall be held for the purpose of
14 framing a new constitution for the state of Louisiana.

15 (B)(1) There shall be one hundred six delegates to the convention, appointed as
16 follows:

17 (a) Six delegates appointed by the Louisiana House of Representatives, of whom one
18 shall be appointed from each congressional district.

19 (b) Six delegates appointed by the Louisiana Senate, of whom one shall be appointed
20 from each congressional district.

21 (c) Six delegates appointed by the governor, of whom one shall be appointed from
22 each congressional district.

23 (d) Six delegates appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court, of whom one shall be
24 appointed from each congressional district.

25 (e) Sixty-four delegates, of whom one shall be appointed by each parish governing
26 authority.

27 (f) One delegate appointed by the president of Centenary College of Louisiana.

28 (g) One delegate appointed by the president of Dillard University.

29 (h) One delegate appointed by the president of Grambling State University.

- 1 (i) One delegate appointed by the president of Louisiana College.
- 2 (j) One delegate appointed by the president of Louisiana Tech University.
- 3 (k) One delegate appointed by the president of Louisiana State University.
- 4 (l) One delegate appointed by the president of Loyola University New Orleans.
- 5 (m) One delegate appointed by the president of McNeese State University.
- 6 (n) One delegate appointed by the president of Nicholls State University.
- 7 (o) One delegate appointed by the president of Northwestern State University.
- 8 (p) One delegate appointed by the president of Southeastern Louisiana University.
- 9 (q) One delegate appointed by the president of Southern University.
- 10 (r) One delegate appointed by the president of Tulane University.
- 11 (s) One delegate appointed by the president of the University of Louisiana at
12 Lafayette.
- 13 (t) One delegate appointed by the president of the University of Louisiana at
14 Monroe.
- 15 (u) One delegate appointed by the president of the University of New Orleans.
- 16 (v) One delegate appointed by the president of Xavier University of Louisiana.
- 17 (w) One delegate appointed by the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges
18 and Universities to be representative of its member institutions not included above.
- 19 (2) The appointments required by this Subsection shall be made and shall be
20 submitted to the secretary of state not later than October 10, 2016.
- 21 (3) The secretary of state shall issue a commission to each delegate selected as
22 provided in this Section.
- 23 (4) Each delegate to the convention shall be an elector of the state of Louisiana, shall
24 be at least eighteen years of age, and shall be a resident of the state of Louisiana.
- 25 (5) The appointment of any public official or public employee as a delegate to the
26 convention and his service in the convention and the appointment of any public official or
27 public employee to the staff of the convention and his service on such staff, as authorized
28 and provided in this Act, shall not be construed to constitute dual officeholding or dual
29 employment within the prohibitions of Part III of Chapter 2 of Title 42 of the Louisiana

1 Revised Statutes of 1950. A delegate and a member of the staff of the convention shall be
2 considered a public employee within the scope of and subject to the provisions of Chapter
3 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. For purposes of Chapter 15 of
4 Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the agency and the governmental entity
5 of delegates and staff members of the convention shall be the convention. For purposes of
6 any other office or employment of any such delegate or staff member, the provisions of
7 Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall remain applicable.
8 The delegates to the convention and the staff of the convention shall be subject to the public
9 bribery provisions of the laws of this state.

10 (6) Any attorney at law serving as a delegate to the convention shall be entitled to
11 the absolute right of the continuance of any case in which he is bona fide counsel of record
12 in any court of the state during his attendance upon the sessions and work of the convention.

13 Section 3. Vacancies. In the event of the death or the inability or unwillingness of
14 any delegate to serve, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection
15 within thirty days after the vacancy.

16 Section 4.(A) The convention shall have authority to frame a new constitution for
17 the state, including such alternative provisions as it deems appropriate, which shall be
18 submitted to the electors of the state for their approval or rejection.

19 (B) The convention shall have authority to propose substantive changes, including
20 one or more alternative provisions, with respect to all matters contained in the Constitution
21 of Louisiana of 1974, as amended.

22 (C) In addition to the authority to propose substantive changes as provided in
23 Subsections (B) of this Section, for the purposes of orderly arrangement, style and
24 conformity, the convention may incorporate in its proposed revision or in any alternative
25 provision nonsubstantive changes in other provisions of the constitution. For the same
26 purposes, the convention may: (1) renumber or rearrange provisions, (2) transfer or divide
27 provisions, (3) change reference designations to conform to redesignated provisions, and (4)
28 make any other purely formal or clerical changes in keeping with the purpose of the revision.

1 (D) Any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of this Act,
2 to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any
3 action of the convention with the provisions of this Act shall be brought in the Nineteenth
4 Judicial District Court. The matter shall be tried by preference over other matters and the
5 court shall render a decision as soon as practicable. In the event of an appeal, the appellate
6 court shall place the matter on its preferential docket, shall hear it without delay, and shall
7 render a decision as soon as practicable.

8 Section 5. Convention organization. (A)(1) The delegates to the convention chosen
9 as provided in this Act shall meet in the House Chamber in the state capitol, or at such other
10 suitable location in the capital city as shall be determined jointly by the presiding officers
11 of the legislature, at noon on Monday, January 9, 2017. The chief justice, or in his absence
12 any associate justice of the supreme court designated by the court, shall attend the
13 convention at the opening thereof and shall preside until the chairman has been elected. The
14 secretary of state shall attend the opening of the convention and call the roll of the delegates,
15 whereupon the temporary presiding officer shall administer to the delegates the following
16 oath:

17 "I, . . . , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of
18 the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and
19 impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as a delegate to the
20 convention, according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God."

21 (2) No delegate shall be qualified to serve as such unless and until he has taken and
22 subscribed to the oath in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

23 (B) After the oath has been administered, the delegates shall proceed to effect the
24 permanent organization of the convention and shall:

25 (1) Adopt rules of procedure for the convention, which rules shall not be inconsistent
26 with the provisions of this Act.

27 (2) Elect from among their number a chairman, a vice chairman, and such other
28 officers as they deem necessary.

1 (3) Elect from among their number an executive committee, the membership of
2 which shall be determined by the delegates but which shall include among its members all
3 of the elected officers of the convention.

4 (4) Elect a chief clerical officer of the convention who shall not be a delegate and
5 whose duties shall be provided by the rules of procedure for the convention.

6 (5) Take such other actions as they deem necessary to effect a permanent
7 organization of the convention.

8 (C) Prior to the convening of the convention, members of the House of
9 Representatives and Senate staffs as designated by the presiding officers of the legislature
10 shall prepare a draft of rules of procedure for consideration, amendment, and adoption by
11 the convention when it convenes. Such proposed rules shall be based upon the rules of the
12 constitutional convention convened in 1973, except as inconsistent with the provisions of
13 this Act. The rules of procedure adopted by the convention shall be subject to later change
14 as the delegates shall provide therein. No delegate shall be allowed to vote by proxy and the
15 rules shall so provide. No committee of the convention, including the executive committee,
16 shall exceed seventeen members and the rules shall so provide.

17 (D) After completing organizational activities, the convention may meet either as
18 a full body or in committees until it completes its duties as provided in this Act.

19 Section 6. Staff; budget; committees. (A) As soon as possible after the members
20 of the executive committee are elected, the executive committee shall employ a research
21 director, research assistants, and secretarial and clerical personnel in accordance with the
22 provisions of Subsection B of this Section and may also employ such other professional,
23 research, technical, and clerical employees as the committee deems necessary.
24 Compensation of staff personnel shall be established by the executive committee.

25 (B) The staff of the constitutional convention may include but shall not be limited
26 to the following who shall not be delegates to the convention:

27 (1) A director of research who shall possess such qualifications as determined by the
28 committee.

1 (2) Research assistants in such number and possessing such qualifications as
2 determined by the committee.

3 (3) Personnel provided by the Louisiana State University, Tulane University, Loyola
4 University, and Southern University law schools from the faculty as requested by the
5 committee.

6 (4) Such other staff as the executive committee deems necessary.

7 (C) The secretary of state shall advertise for applicants for the staff of the
8 constitutional convention and shall receive such applications for staff service prior to the
9 first meeting of the convention. He shall present the applications he has received to the
10 executive committee on the day the convention convenes. If the executive committee deems
11 necessary, it may receive additional applications after the convention convenes.

12 (D)(1) In addition to its staff, the convention may utilize the personnel and services
13 of the legislative auditor, the legislative fiscal officer, and the staffs of the House of
14 Representatives and the Senate, and the convention may request and utilize such counsel,
15 assistance, personnel, and advice as may be obtained from any and all public sources and
16 from any and all private sources, including but not limited to universities, colleges,
17 foundations, charitable corporations, private research agencies, individuals, and
18 organizations.

19 (2) The committee may also call upon the members or staffs of any and all
20 departments or agencies of the state for data and assistance, and all such departments and
21 agencies shall cooperate with the committee.

22 (E) As soon as possible after the members of the executive committee are elected,
23 the executive committee shall prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention,
24 including staff salaries and other necessary expenditures, based on the amount of the
25 appropriation for the convention and any other funds available for expenditure.

26 (F) The executive committee may create and establish such substantive and
27 procedural committees as it deems appropriate. The chairman of the convention shall
28 appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and the membership of each such committee.

1 (G) Unless the legislature is in session, the House chamber and the legislative
2 committee rooms in the state capitol shall be available for use by the convention and its
3 committees. If the facilities at the state capitol are not available or are not sufficient for use
4 by the convention or its committees, the convention or its committees shall meet at a suitable
5 location in the capital city, which location shall be determined by the chairman of the
6 convention, and public notice of the location shall be given and posted at suitable locations
7 in the state capitol. The convention shall have full authority to use the facilities and services
8 of any board, commission, department, or agency of the state or of any political subdivision
9 of the state, and all such entities shall cooperate with the convention to the fullest extent in
10 furnishing services, facilities, and employees upon request. In addition, the convention may
11 use the facilities and services of other persons and organizations.

12 (H) The convention shall have full authority to accept grants, monies, aid, facilities,
13 and services from public or private sources for the purpose of accomplishing its task of
14 framing a new constitution. Any such grants, monies, facilities, services, and donations, as
15 well as the names of the donors thereof, shall be recorded in the record of the proceedings
16 of the convention, and such records shall be open to inspection by any person.

17 (I) The final draft of the proposed constitution shall be completed no later than May
18 31, 2018.

19 Section 7. Compensation of delegates. The delegates to the convention shall receive
20 a per diem for each day of actual attendance at meetings of the convention or of committees
21 thereof in the amount provided for members of the legislature for attendance at legislative
22 sessions, but no delegate shall be paid a per diem after May 31, 2018, or the date the final
23 draft is completed, whichever is earlier. No delegate may accept any other compensation
24 from any source for work performed as a delegate to the convention. However, if a delegate
25 is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, should the delegate's employer choose to
26 continue to pay the usual compensation while the delegate is engaged in the work of the
27 convention, such delegate may accept that compensation, notwithstanding any provision of
28 law to the contrary.

1 Section 8. Appropriation; use of funds. (A) Any appropriation for the expenses of
2 the convention shall be used solely to defray the necessary expenses of the constitutional
3 convention for which provision is made in this Act, including the payment of per diem of
4 delegates, salaries, and expenses of necessary employees, supplies, materials, equipment,
5 printing, and reproduction of materials, and all other necessary expenses incurred in
6 connection with the convention and its work.

7 (B) Any funds appropriated for the convention shall be withdrawn from the state
8 treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the chairman of the convention, and all
9 checks for the disbursement of funds shall be signed by the chairman and the vice chairman
10 of the convention or by the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as shall be
11 designated by the convention.

12 (C) The legislature shall make adequate appropriations to the convention for so long
13 as the convention remains in existence and for so long thereafter as is necessary to assure
14 the payment of all expenses incurred in connection with the work of the convention. The
15 convention shall not be deemed to be a budget unit of the state and therefore shall not be
16 subject to the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.
17 The financial books and records of the convention, however, shall be subject to audit by the
18 legislative auditor.

19 Section 9. Submission of proposed constitution; election. (A) Upon completion of
20 its work, and not later than June 15, 2018, the convention shall submit a proposed draft of
21 a new constitution for the state to the governor. At the discretion of the convention, the
22 convention may also propose and submit at the same time such alternative provisions as it
23 deems appropriate. The constitution as drafted by the convention, together with any
24 alternative provisions proposed for submission, shall be submitted to the people for adoption
25 or rejection. Within fifteen days after submission of the proposed draft to the governor, he
26 shall by proclamation call an election to be held at the same time as the congressional
27 primary election in 2018 for the purpose of submitting the proposed draft and any alternative
28 provisions to the people for adoption or rejection.

1 (B) The election shall be held and the results shall be promulgated in accordance
2 with the Louisiana Election Code. All electors duly qualified to vote in the state at the time
3 of the election shall be entitled to vote without regard to party affiliation in their respective
4 precincts on the proposition for or against adoption of the revision and on the question or
5 questions of adoption of such alternative provisions as may be proposed by the convention.
6 The costs of the election shall be paid as provided in the Louisiana Election Code for
7 elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot.

8 (C) The convention may submit to the electors of the state the proposal of
9 acceptance or rejection of the constitution and any alternative provisions in such form and
10 manner as it may determine and may direct the proper election officials to take the necessary
11 steps to effectuate such determination of the convention in presenting the proposed
12 constitution and any alternative provisions to the electors. Adoption of the constitution and
13 of any such alternative provisions shall require the favorable vote of a majority of the
14 electors voting on the respective proposition.

15 (D) Upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state, if the
16 constitution is ratified and adopted by the people in the election for which provision is made
17 in this Section, the governor shall proclaim the constitution, including such alternative
18 provisions adopted by the people at the election, to be the Constitution of Louisiana. The
19 constitution, including such alternative provisions so adopted, shall become effective at
20 midnight on December 31, 2018, except as otherwise provided in the constitution adopted
21 or in any such alternative provisions adopted.

22 Section 10. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof is held invalid,
23 such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given
24 effect without the invalid provision or application.

25 Section 11. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
26 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
27 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
28 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
29 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 375 Original

2016 Regular Session

Cromer

Abstract: Calls a constitutional convention to convene on Jan. 9, 2017, to be composed of 106 appointed delegates. Requires convention to complete a new constitution by May 31, 2018.

Proposed law states legislative findings that there is a need to address a number of key policy areas that require constitutional change, that the constitution restricts the legislature in effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and that a serious analysis and revision of the state constitution is needed to conduct an examination of the state's critical needs, to consider reform proposals, and to craft provisions that allow legislative solutions.

Proposed law provides for a constitutional convention as follows:

- (1) Calls the convention to convene at noon on Jan. 9, 2017, to frame a new constitution for the state.
- (2) Provides for 106 delegates to be appointed as follows:
 - (a) Six delegates appointed by the La. House of Representatives, of whom one shall be appointed from each congressional district.
 - (b) Six delegates appointed by the La. Senate, of whom one shall be appointed from each congressional district.
 - (c) Six delegates appointed by the governor, of whom one shall be appointed from each congressional district.
 - (d) Six delegates appointed by the La. Supreme Court, of whom one shall be appointed from each congressional district.
 - (e) Sixty-four delegates, of whom one shall be appointed by each parish governing authority.
 - (f) One delegate appointed by the president of Centenary College of La. .
 - (g) One delegate appointed by the president of Dillard University.
 - (h) One delegate appointed by the president of Grambling State University.
 - (i) One delegate appointed by the president of La. College.
 - (j) One delegate appointed by the president of La. Tech University.
 - (k) One delegate appointed by the president of La. State University.
 - (l) One delegate appointed by the president of Loyola University New Orleans.
 - (m) One delegate appointed by the president of McNeese State University.
 - (n) One delegate appointed by the president of Nicholls State University.

- (o) One delegate appointed by the president of Northwestern State University.
 - (p) One delegate appointed by the president of Southeastern La. University.
 - (q) One delegate appointed by the president of Southern University.
 - (r) One delegate appointed by the president of Tulane University.
 - (s) One delegate appointed by the president of the University of La. at Lafayette.
 - (t) One delegate appointed by the president of the University of La. at Monroe.
 - (u) One delegate appointed by the president of the University of New Orleans.
 - (v) One delegate appointed by the president of Xavier University of La. .
 - (w) One delegate appointed by the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities to be representative of its member institutions not included above.
- (3) Requires that delegates be qualified electors of the state. Expects selection and service of delegates and staff of the convention from dual employment/dual officeholding laws. Delegates, and staff are subject to the code of ethics and public bribery laws. Attorney delegates are entitled to continuance of cases in which they are counsel of record while attending sessions and convention work.
- (4) Provides for filling vacancies in the same manner as the original selection within 30 days of vacancy.

Proposed law grants to the convention the authority to frame a new state constitution, including such alternative provisions as it deems appropriate. Further permits the convention, for the purposes of orderly arrangement, style and conformity, to incorporate nonsubstantive changes in other provisions of the constitution to: (1) renumber or rearrange provisions, (2) transfer or divide provisions, (3) change reference designations to conform to redesignated provisions, and (4) make any other purely formal or clerical changes in keeping with the purpose of the revision.

Provides the procedure for judicial determination of the scope of the authority of the convention, questions relating to the construction and validity of the Act, or conformity of any action of the convention with the provisions of the Act and also provides for expedited hearings and decisions.

Proposed law provides for convention organization:

- (1) Includes provisions for oath for delegates; adoption of rules; election of chairman, vice chairman, chief clerical officer, and other officers deemed necessary by the convention; and election of an executive committee which shall include all of the elected officers of the convention; and other actions necessary to organize.
- (2) Provides for House and Senate staff designated by the presiding officers of the legislature, prior to the convention, to prepare rules of procedure for adoption by the convention, based on the 1973 convention rules, such rules to be subject to change and adoption by the convention. Prohibits proxy voting. Limits committee membership to 17 members.

Proposed law provides for the initial meeting of the convention on Jan. 9, 2017. Provides that after organizational activities are completed, the convention may meet either as a full body or in committees until it completes its duties.

Proposed law provides for convention staff, budget, committees, meeting site, and other assistance:

- (1) Requires the executive committee to employ a research director, research and clerical staff, and other employees deemed necessary. Specifies certain staff membership. Provides for soliciting staff applications. Provides for executive committee to set staff compensation.
- (2) Provides that staff may include but not be limited to a research director, research assistants, personnel provided by the four law schools from the faculty as requested by the committee, and such other staff as deemed necessary by the executive committee. Requires the secretary of state, prior to the first meeting of the convention, to advertise and receive applications for staff service and present those applications to the executive committee on the day the convention convenes.

Authorizes the committee to use personnel, facilities, and services of the legislative auditor, the legislative fiscal officer, and the staffs of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and to request and utilize counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice from public and private sources. Authorizes the committee to call upon the members or staffs of state departments or agencies for data and assistance and requires them to cooperate with the committee.

- (3) Requires the executive committee to prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention, based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds available for expenditure.
- (4) Authorizes the executive committee to establish any substantive or procedural committees it deems necessary. Provides that the chairman of the convention appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and membership of each such committee.
- (5) Requires that the House Chamber and the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol be available for convention use, unless the legislature is in session. Authorizes the convention to meet elsewhere in Baton Rouge as determined by the chairman when state capitol facilities are not available or are insufficient.
- (6) Authorizes convention use of facilities and services of state departments and agencies and of political subdivisions and requires their cooperation in furnishing services, facilities, and employees. Authorizes the convention to accept grants, facilities, and services from public and private sources, with such to be recorded in convention records which shall be open for inspection.

Proposed law provides for compensation of delegates and payment of convention expenses:

- (1) Provides per diem for delegates in the same amount provided for the legislature for each day of actual attendance at meetings of the convention or committees thereof. Prohibits payment of per diem after May 31, 2018, or the date the final draft is completed, whichever is earlier. Prohibits a delegate from accepting any additional compensation for work performed as a delegate to the convention, but allows a delegate to continue to receive compensation for the delegate's regular bona fide employment while a delegate.
- (2) Requires that the legislature make adequate appropriations to the convention for the payment of the necessary expenses of the convention such as per diem, salaries, and expenses of employees, supplies, materials, equipment, and printing for so long as the convention remains in existence and for so long thereafter as is necessary to pay the expenses of the convention. Provides that the convention is not a state budget unit. Specifies that the convention is subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

- (3) Requires that funds appropriated be withdrawn from the state treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the convention chairman and that checks be signed by the chairman and vice chairman, or the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as designated by the convention.

Proposed law provides that the final draft of a proposed constitution be completed not later than May 31, 2018. Requires the convention, upon completion of its work and subject to the subject matter limitations on the convention, to submit to the governor the proposed constitution and any alternative provisions agreed upon no later than June 15, 2018. Provides that the constitution and any alternative provisions proposed for submission shall be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection at a special election. Provides for the convention to determine the manner for submission of alternative proposals. Requires the governor to call the election within 15 days after the draft is submitted, to be held at the same time as the congressional primary election in 2018 (Nov. 6, 2018). Provides for the election to be held and the results thereof promulgated in accordance with the La. Election Code and for costs to be paid as provided in the election code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot. Voters are allowed to vote without regard to party affiliation. Requires a majority vote to approve the constitution and any alternative proposals.

Proposed law, requires, upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state if the constitution is ratified and adopted by the people, that the governor proclaim the constitution, including alternative provisions adopted, to be the Constitution of La. Provides that the constitution and any such alternative provisions adopted shall become effective at midnight on Dec. 31, 2018, except as otherwise provided in the constitution or in any alternative provisions adopted.

Proposed law provides that if any provision of this Act or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

Timetable for Major Provisions of Bill

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>
Appointment of convention delegates & submission to secretary of state not later than	10/10/16
Convention to convene	1/9/17 (noon)
Convention to complete final draft & deadline for delegates' per diem	5/31/18
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor by	6/15/18
Election for submission of proposed constitution	Congressional primary election in 2018– 11/6/18
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/18 (midnight)