
DIGEST

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HB 70 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Horton

Abstract: Relative to the classified fire service, requires persons selected for appointment to an entry-level position as a firefighter in certain municipalities and in Fire Protection District No. 2 of Ward 4 of Calcasieu Parish to complete a fire training academy prior to the start of the working test period.

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. Present constitution authorizes modifications to such systems (by law adopted by 2/3 of each house of the legislature in the case of provisions of Art. XIV, §15.1 of the 1921 constitution made statutory by the constitution of 1974) but prohibits the legislature from abolishing the system or making it inapplicable to covered jurisdictions.

Present law, relative to both systems, provides that a municipal fire and police civil service board is created in the municipal 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.

Proposed law retains present constitution and present law.

Present law requires that each person selected for appointment to an entry level position in the classified service from the competitive firefighter, firefighter/operator, or police officer employment list who has demonstrated successful completion of formal training as provided in present law prior to appointment to immediately begin the working test. Requires any person selected for appointment to any such position who has not demonstrated successful completion of formal training prior to appointment to be employed by the appointing authority and reported to the board as a recruit and to immediately begin formal training.

Present law requires that the formal training be provided for through the appointing authority for a period of not more than six months from the date of appointment. Requires that the formal training period conclude six months from the date of original appointment or upon the successful completion

of the formal training, whichever occurs first, at which time the working test shall commence.

Present law requires that successful completion of formal training as required by present law for a position in the classification of firefighter or firefighter/operator be demonstrated by certification as Firefighter I in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 and for a position in the classification of police be demonstrated by certification from a peace officer standards and training accredited training program as provided by present law (R.S. 40:2405(A)).

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law includes an exception for persons selected for appointment to an entry-level position as a firefighter in certain municipalities. Prohibits any such person from starting the working test period until the person successfully completes formal training as required by present law. Provides that formal training means the enrollment in and successful completion of a fire training academy provided by the appointing authority. Requires all persons to successfully complete the fire training academy whether or not the person was certified as Firefighter I in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 prior to appointment.

Present law authorizes the appointing authority to provide for the duration of the fire training academy provided for in present law. Requires a recruit to immediately begin the working test period upon successful completion of the fire training academy.

Proposed law makes present law exception applicable in the cities of Baton Rouge, Bossier City, and Lafayette and Fire Protection District No. 2 of Ward 4 of Calcasieu Parish rather than in municipalities with a population of not less than 200,000 persons and not more than 240,000 persons.

(Amends R.S. 33:2495.3(A); Adds R.S. 33:2555.2)