

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 454 (HB 189)

2018 Regular Session

Wright

Existing law (Administrative Procedure Act) provides procedures for the adoption, amendment, and repeal of rules by executive branch agencies and for legislative oversight regarding such rule changes.

Existing law (R.S. 49:953(C)) further provides that an interested person may petition an agency requesting rule changes. Requires each agency to prescribe by rule the form for petitions and the procedure for submission, consideration, and disposition. Requires the agency, within 90 days after submission of a petition, to either deny the petition in writing, stating reasons for the denial, or initiate rulemaking proceedings. New law requires each agency with an appropriated operating budget of \$5 million or more to include a description of the procedure for submitting petitions on its website.

New law further requires each agency, at least once prior to Jan. 1, 2020, and at least once every six-year period thereafter, to conduct a public hearing to allow any person to comment on any rule of the agency which the person believes is contrary to law, outdated, unnecessary, overly complex, or burdensome. Requires the agency to give at least 30 days notice of the meeting by publishing it in the La. Register, sending notice electronically to the appropriate legislative oversight committees, and providing notice of the meeting to all persons who have made timely request of the agency. Requires the notice to contain (a) the agency's name; (b) the purpose of the meeting; (c) the time and place of the meeting; (d) the process to request reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities; and (e) the name and contact information of the person within the agency to whom interested persons should direct their views regarding the agency's rules, if in writing, and the deadline for submission of written comments.

New law requires the agency to consider fully all comments and submissions concerning its rules. Requires the agency to advise persons who provide oral comments that in order to be submitted to the legislative oversight committee, comments must be submitted in writing. Requires the agency to issue a response to each submission describing the principal advantages and disadvantages of the rule changes suggested in the submission. Further allows the agency to prepare a statement explaining the basis and rationale for the rule in question identifying the data and evidence upon which the rule is based. Requires all submissions, responses, and statements to be furnished to the respective legislative oversight committees in the annual report of rulemaking (see existing and new law—R.S. 49:968(K) below) and to be made available to interested persons as soon as possible but no later than one day following submission to the appropriate legislative oversight committees.

Prior law required each agency that proposed rule or fee changes during the previous calendar year to submit a report to the appropriate legislative committees containing a statement of the action taken by the agency with respect to those changes.

New law (R.S. 49:568(K) and (L)) provides instead that each agency shall submit a report on rulemaking activities during the previous calendar year to the appropriate legislative committees. Provides that such report shall contain a recitation of each petition and submission received by the agency pursuant to existing and new law (explained above), the agency's response to each petition and submission, and the report of the public comments and agency response relative to the public hearing required by new law (explained above).

Effective Jan. 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 49:953(C) and 968(K) and (L))