
DIGEST

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HB 376 Original

2020 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Relative to the municipal fire and police civil service board in the city of Baton Rouge, changes the qualifications for certain board members.

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.

Proposed law retains present constitution and present law.

Present law, relative to both systems, creates a municipal fire and police civil service board in each municipality, parish, and fire protection district. Provides that the board shall be composed of five members who are required to serve without compensation. Requires that each member of the board be a citizen of the U.S. and a resident of the area for which fire or police protection is provided for at least five years preceding his appointment. Additionally requires each member to be a qualified voter of the area at the time of his appointment.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires that at least two members of the board be appointed who shall be first nominated and elected by and from the regular employees of the fire and police departments. Requires that these members be residents of the parish in which they serve for a period of at least five years preceding their appointment to the board, if so permitted by a resolution of the local governing authority. Provides that the two members are not required to be residents or qualified voters of the area in which they are elected to serve or residents of the parish in which the area is located, if so permitted by a resolution of the local governing authority.

Proposed law retains present law but provides an exception for the city of Baton Rouge. Requires that the two members elected from the fire and police departments be residents of the city of Baton Rouge, the unincorporated area of East Baton Rouge Parish, or a combination thereof for at least five years preceding their appointment. Additionally requires each member to be a qualified voter of East Baton Rouge Parish at the time of his appointment.

(Adds R.S. 33:2476(B)(1)(e))