

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

CIVIL SERVICE/FIRE & POL: Provides relative to promotions in the municipal fire and police civil service system

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Promotions to study
3 and make recommendations regarding promotions, within the municipal fire and
4 police civil service system, of employees of municipal police departments and to
5 provide a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best methods
6 for the promotion of such employees to the House of Representatives not later than
7 sixty days prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of
8 Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, Article X, Section 16 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides for a
10 system of classified fire and police civil service that is applicable to all municipalities having
11 a population exceeding thirteen thousand persons and operating a regularly paid fire and
12 police department and to all parishes and fire protection districts operating a regularly paid
13 fire department; and

14 WHEREAS, R.S. 33:2531 et seq. additionally provides for a system of classified fire
15 and police civil service that is applicable to all municipalities having a population of not less
16 than seven thousand persons and not more than thirteen thousand persons; and

17 WHEREAS, the current municipal fire and police civil service laws require the
18 municipal fire and police civil service board in each jurisdiction to establish and maintain
19 promotion and competitive employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for
20 appointment to various classes of positions in the classified service; and

21 WHEREAS, current provisions, relative to the promotion employment list, generally
22 require the names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test to be placed on

1 the promotion employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to
2 lowest, according to their total departmental seniority; and

3 WHEREAS, departmental seniority means the total employment computed for an
4 employee beginning with the last date on which he was regularly and permanently appointed
5 and has worked continuously, to and including the date of computation; and

6 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs has
7 heard several bills during recent legislative sessions that provide exceptions to the general
8 provisions, including bills that require the names of persons to be placed on the promotion
9 employment list, from highest to lowest, according to their total promotional seniority; and

10 WHEREAS, promotional seniority means the total cumulative employment in a class
11 of positions of the next lower class from which a promotion is to be made; and

12 WHEREAS, concern is growing among those in the law enforcement ranks regarding
13 the many exceptions being made for multiple jurisdictions as it is argued that the lack of
14 consistency threatens the long-term viability of municipal police departments; and

15 WHEREAS, many believe that due to expanding law enforcement responsibilities
16 and decreasing resources, maintaining a highly qualified and motivated police workforce
17 has become one of the greatest challenges facing law enforcement agencies today; and

18 WHEREAS, it is imperative that a collective effort is made to establish a statewide
19 uniform system for the promotion of classified employees of municipal police departments
20 as this will allow the departments to attract qualified people, get them to stay, and motivate
21 them to higher levels of performance.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on Municipal Fire and Police
24 Civil Service Promotions to study and make recommendations regarding promotions within
25 the municipal fire and police civil service system for employees of municipal police
26 departments and to report its findings and recommendations regarding the best methods for
27 the promotion of such employees to the House of Representatives not later than sixty days
28 prior to convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
30 following members:

- 1 (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs
2 or his designee.
- 3 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs or his
4 designee.
- 5 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice or
6 his designee.
- 7 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B or his designee.
- 8 (5) The president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee.
- 9 (6) The president of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police or his designee.
- 10 (7) The president of the Louisiana Union of Police or his designee.
- 11 (8) The executive director of the International Union of Police or his designee.
- 12 (9) The president of the Baton Rouge Union of Police or his designee.
- 13 (10) The state examiner for the Louisiana Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service or his
14 designee.
- 15 (11) The president of the International Fire Fighters Association or his designee.
- 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of the Louisiana Fraternal Order
17 of Police or his designee shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the president of
18 the Baton Rouge Union of Police or his designee shall serve as the vice chairman.
- 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman shall call the first meeting of the
20 task force, and the meeting shall be held no later than August 1, 2020.
- 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all designees shall be named no later than July
22 1, 2020.

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)]

HR 35 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

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Creates the Task Force on Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Promotions to study and make recommendations regarding promotions within the municipal fire and police civil service system for employees of municipal police departments. Provides for a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best methods for the promotion of employees to the House of Representatives not later than 60 days prior to the 2021 R.S.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original resolution:

1. Add provision that the president of the La. Fraternal Order of Police or his designee shall serve as the chairman of the task force and that the president of the Baton Rouge Union of Police or his designee shall serve as the vice chairman.
2. Add requirement that the chairman call the first meeting of the task force.