

SENATE BILL NO. 209

BY SENATOR MORRIS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 33:2491, (E), and (I), 2492(1), (2), and (11), 2494(A) and (D), the introductory paragraph of 2551, (5), and (9), 2552(1), (2), and (11), 2553(C), and 2554(A) and (D), relative to in-service training for certain public employees; to provide for the development and implementation of an online testing program for prospective police officers and firefighters by the office of the state examiner; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 33:2491, (E), and (I), 2492(1), (2), and (11), 2494(A) and (D), the introductory paragraph of 2551, (5), and (9), 2552(1), (2), and (11), 2553(C), and 2554(A) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2491. Establishment and maintenance of employment lists

Except for the positions of entrance firefighter and entrance police officer, ~~the~~ board shall establish and maintain employment lists containing names of persons eligible for appointment to the various classes of positions in the classified service, as follows:

* * *

E. Any person whose name is placed upon the competitive employment list for the entrance or lowest ranking class in the classified service who has served in the armed forces of the United States of America during the times of war, and has been honorably discharged or discharged under honorable conditions, shall have added to his final test score a total of five points at the time of placing his name upon the list. Proof of such service and discharge shall be required by the board or the state examiner in any manner it deems advisable.

* * *

1 I. (1) For purposes of entrance firefighter and entrance police officer
 2 positions, the state examiner shall establish and maintain a statewide eligibility
 3 list containing names of persons eligible for appointment to these classes by any
 4 municipality, parish, or fire protection district under the municipal fire and
 5 police civil service system.

6 (2) A person who has attained a passing score on an examination
 7 administered by the state examiner for ~~entrance police officer, entrance firefighter,~~
 8 entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, or for the entrance
 9 classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems
 10 for the respective fire or police services is the primary duty may have his name
 11 placed on the employment list of any municipality, parish, or fire protection district
 12 under the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service System, provided the person's
 13 application and score are accepted by the board of the municipality, parish, or fire
 14 protection district in which he seeks employment. In order that his name may be
 15 placed upon the employment eligibility list, a person shall be required to meet the
 16 minimum qualifications adopted as rules of the respective civil service board, as if
 17 making original application for admission to the test. The eligibility of such an
 18 applicant shall not continue past the date on which his original eligibility expired.

19 §2492. Tests

20 Tests to determine the eligibility of applicants for entry upon the promotional
 21 and competitive employment lists shall be provided, as follows:

22 (1)(a) The board shall provide through the state examiner for promotional or
 23 competitive tests. Official notice of examination shall be posted on the bulletin board
 24 in each station of the respective department. The notice shall state (i) class of
 25 positions for which tests will be given, (ii) whether the tests will be given on a
 26 promotional or competitive basis, and (iii) the final date on which applications for
 27 admission to the tests will be received. The notice shall be posted for a continuous
 28 period of ~~thirty~~ ten days preceding the date for administering the tests.

29 (b) In addition to the posted notice, public notice for all tests to be given on
 30 a competitive basis shall be published ~~at least four times during the thirty-day period~~

1 in the official journal of the municipality on the state examiner's website and the
2 municipality's website, if available, during the ten-day period in which such tests
3 are to be held. This notice of examination need not reveal the exact date on which
4 tests shall be administered, but all applicants shall be advised of the date, place, and
5 time to report for an announced test at least five days in advance thereof in any
6 manner the board may prescribe.

7 **(2)(a) For the entrance firefighter and the entrance police officer testing,**
8 **the state examiner shall publish notice on his website for ten-day notice of the**
9 **location for where such tests are to be held and the final date on which**
10 **applications for admission to the test will be received. This notice of**
11 **examination shall reveal the exact date on which the test shall be administered.**
12 **However, all applicants shall be advised of the time and place to report for an**
13 **announced test at least five days in advance in any manner the state examiner**
14 **may prescribe. The state examiner shall provide for online entrance firefighter**
15 **and entrance police testing as provided for in this Section by Fiscal Year 2022.**

16 **(b)** As may be necessary from time to time, the state examiner may call for
17 and administer examinations for the entrance classifications of firefighter, police
18 officer, **secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk**, jailer, and for the
19 entrance classes for positions of which the operation and maintenance of a radio,
20 alarm, or signal system for the fire or police service is the primary duty. Tests may
21 be administered at the discretion of the state examiner in any municipality, parish,
22 or fire protection district to which this Part applies. Official notification shall not be
23 made to the extent required under Paragraph (1) of this Section; however, public
24 notice shall be published at least four times during a thirty-day period in the official
25 journal of the state of Louisiana and may be posted on the bulletin board in each
26 station of the respective department. This notice of examination need not state the
27 exact date on which tests shall be administered, but all applicants shall be advised
28 of the date, place, and time to report for an announced test at least five days in
29 advance thereof in any manner the state examiner may prescribe.

30 * * *

(11) Each applicant who makes a passing score on a test administered by the state examiner under the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Section shall be advised, in any manner the state examiner prescribes, of his final score. **Except for the positions of entrance firefighter and entrance police officer,** such score may be reported and approved by the board under the provisions of R.S. 33:2491(I). The original eligibility of an applicant under the provisions of this Paragraph shall be the period of not more than eighteen months after the date on which the signature of the state examiner was affixed to his notification of score.

* * *

§2494. Certification and appointment

A.(1) Except for the positions of entrance firefighter and entrance police officer, ~~W~~ whenever the appointing authority proposes to fill a vacancy in the classified service, except by demotion, transfer, emergency appointment, or by substitute employment not to exceed thirty days, he shall request the board to certify names of persons eligible for appointment to the vacant position. The board shall thereupon certify in writing the names of eligible persons from the appropriate employment list, and the appointing authority shall, if he fills the vacancy, make the appointment as provided by this Section.

(2) Whenever the appointing authority proposes to fill a vacancy in entrance level firefighter and entrance level police officer, he shall request the state examiner to certify names of persons eligible for appointments to the vacant position. The state examiner shall certify in writing the names of eligible persons from the appropriate list, and the appointing authority shall, if he fills the vacancy, make the appointment as provided by this Section.

* * *

D. Certification and appointment from the competitive list shall be limited to those conditions and classifications for which the competitive test may be given as provided by ~~R.S. 33:2492(E)~~ **R.S. 33:2492**. Upon the appointing authority's request for the certification of eligible persons from which he may fill a vacancy, and if the competitive list is the appropriate list from which the names of eligible persons

1 shall be certified, the board or the state examiner shall certify the names of the
 2 persons upon that list, in the order in which they appear thereon, for the class in
 3 which the vacancy is to be filled. The appointing authority shall select and appoint
 4 to the first vacancy to be filled, any one of the persons so certified to him for the
 5 vacancy. **In making appointments to entrance firefighter and entrance police**
 6 **officer, the appointing authority shall verify the applicant meets the minimum**
 7 **qualifications as established by the board. Additionally,** ~~In~~ making such
 8 appointment to entry-level positions, the appointing authority shall give a preference
 9 to Louisiana residents. If any one or more persons so certified should refuse the
 10 appointment, the appointing authority shall then select and appoint any one of the
 11 remaining persons certified by the board or the state examiner. This procedure shall
 12 be followed until the position has been filled by appointment of one of the persons
 13 certified from the list and willing to accept the appointment, or until each person
 14 whose name appears upon the list has in this manner been certified for the vacancy.

15 * * *

16 §2551. Establishment and maintenance of employment lists

17 **Except for the positions of entrance firefighter and entrance police**
 18 **officer,** ~~the~~ board shall establish and maintain lists containing names of persons
 19 eligible for appointment to the various classes of positions in the classified service
 20 as follows:

21 * * *

22 (5) Any person whose name is placed upon the competitive employment list
 23 for the entrance or lowest ranking class in the classified service who has served in
 24 the armed forces of the United States of America during time of war, and who has
 25 been honorably discharged or discharged under honorable conditions, shall have
 26 added to his final test score a total of five points at the time of placing his name upon
 27 the list. Proof of such service and discharge shall be required by the board or state
 28 **examiner** in any manner it deems advisable.

29 * * *

30 **(9)(a) For purposes of entry level firefighter and entry level police officer**

1 positions, the state examiner shall establish and maintain a statewide eligibility
 2 list containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to these classes by
 3 any municipality, parish, or fire protection district under the municipal fire and
 4 police civil service system.

5 (b) A person who has attained a passing score on an examination
 6 administered by the state examiner for entrance police officer, entrance firefighter,
 7 entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, or for the entrance
 8 classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems
 9 for the respective fire or police services is the primary duty may have his name
 10 placed on the employment list of any municipality, parish, or fire protection district
 11 under the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service System, provided the person's
 12 application and score are accepted by the board of the municipality, parish, or fire
 13 protection district in which he seeks employment. In order that his name may be
 14 placed upon the employment eligibility list, a person shall be required to meet the
 15 minimum qualifications adopted as rules of the respective civil service board, as if
 16 making original application for admission to the test. The eligibility of such an
 17 applicant shall not continue past the date on which his original eligibility expired.

18 * * *

19 §2552. Tests

20 Tests to determine the eligibility of applicants for entry upon the promotional
 21 and competitive employment lists shall be provided, as follows:

22 (1)(a) Except for entrance firefighter and entrance police officer, ~~the~~
 23 board shall provide through the state examiner for promotional or competitive tests.
 24 Official notice of examination shall be posted on the bulletin board in each station
 25 of the respective department. The notice shall state (i) class of positions for which
 26 tests will be given, (ii) whether the tests will be given on a promotional or
 27 competitive basis, and (iii) the final date on which applications for admission to the
 28 tests will be received. The notice shall be posted for a continuous period of ~~thirty~~ ten
 29 days preceding the date for administering the tests.

30 (b) In addition to the posted notice, public notice for all tests to be given on

1 a competitive basis shall be published ~~at least four times during the thirty-day period~~
2 ~~in the official journal of the municipality, parish, or fire protection district, as the~~
3 ~~case may be, during the ten-day period on the state examiner's website and the~~
4 ~~municipality, parish, or fire protection district's website, if available,~~ in which
5 such tests are to be held. This notice of examination need not state the exact date on
6 which tests shall be administered, but all applicants shall be advised of the date,
7 place, and time to report for an announced test at least five days in advance thereof
8 in any manner the board may prescribe.

9 (c) For the entrance firefighter and the entrance police officer testing, the
10 state examiner shall publish notice on his website for ten-day notice of the
11 location for where such tests are to be held and the final date on which
12 applications for admission to the test will be received. This notice of
13 examination shall reveal the exact date on which the test shall be administered.
14 However, all applicants shall be advised of the place and time to report for an
15 announced test at least five days in advance in any manner the state examiner
16 may prescribe. The state examiner shall provide for online entrance firefighter
17 and entrance police testing as provided for in this Section by Fiscal Year 2022.

18 (2) As may be necessary from time to time, the state examiner may call for
19 and administer examinations for the entrance classifications of firefighter, police
20 officer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, jailer, and for the
21 entrance classes for positions of which the operation and maintenance of a radio,
22 alarm, or signal system for the fire or police service is the primary duty. Tests may
23 be administered at the discretion of the state examiner in any municipality, parish,
24 or fire protection district to which this Part applies. Official notification shall not be
25 made to the extent required under Paragraph (1) of this Section; however, public
26 notice shall be published at least four times during a thirty-day period in the official
27 journal of the state of Louisiana and may be posted on the bulletin board in each
28 station of the respective department. This notice of examination need not state the
29 exact date on which tests shall be administered, but all applicants shall be advised
30 of the date, place, and time to report for an announced test at least five days in

1 advance thereof in any manner the state examiner may prescribe.

2 * * *

3 (11) Each applicant who makes a passing score on a test administered by the
 4 state examiner pursuant to **Subparagraph (1)(c) or** Paragraph (2) of this Section
 5 shall be advised, in any manner the state examiner prescribes, of his final score.
 6 **Except for the positions of entrance firefighter and entrance police officer,**
 7 ~~S~~such score may be reported and approved by the board under the provisions of R.S.
 8 33:2551(9). The original eligibility of an applicant under the provisions of this
 9 Paragraph shall be the period of not more than eighteen months after the date on
 10 which the signature of the state examiner was affixed to his notification of score.

11 §2553. Admission to tests

12 * * *

13 C. Any applicant admitted to the competitive examinations which may be
 14 called for by the state examiner pursuant to R.S. 33:2552**(1)(c) or** (2) shall be a
 15 citizen of the United States and of legal age.

16 §2554. Certification and appointment

17 **A.(1) Except for entrance firefighter and entrance police officer,**
 18 ~~W~~whenever the appointing authority proposes to fill a vacancy in the classified
 19 service, except by demotion, transfer, emergency appointment, or by substitute
 20 employment not to exceed thirty days, he shall request the board to certify names of
 21 persons eligible for appointment to the vacant position. The board thereupon shall
 22 certify in writing the names of eligible persons from the appropriate employment list,
 23 and the appointing authority shall, if it fills the vacancy, make the appointment as
 24 provided by this Section.

25 **(2) Whenever the appointing authority proposes to fill a vacancy in**
 26 **entrance level firefighter or entrance level police officer, he shall request the**
 27 **state examiner to certify names of persons eligible for appointments to the**
 28 **vacant position. The state examiner shall certify in writing the names of eligible**
 29 **persons from the appropriate list, and the appointing authority shall, if he fills**
 30 **the vacancy, make the appointment as provided by this Section.**

* * *

D. Certification and appointment from the competitive list shall be limited to those conditions and classifications for which the competitive test may be given as provided by R.S. 33:2552~~(5)~~(7). Upon the appointing authority's request for the certification of eligible persons from which it may fill a vacancy, and if the competitive list is the appropriate list from which the names of eligible persons shall be certified, the board **or the state examiner** shall certify the names of the persons upon that list, in the order in which they appear thereon, for the class in which the vacancy is to be filled. The appointing authority shall select and appoint to the first vacancy to be filled any one of the persons so certified to it for the vacancy. **In making appointments to the positions of entrance firefighter and entrance police officer, the appointing authority shall verify the applicant meets the minimum qualifications as established by the board. Additionally,** ~~in~~ making such appointment to entry-level positions, the appointing authority shall give a preference to Louisiana residents. If any one or more persons so certified refuses the appointment, the appointing authority then shall select and appoint any one of the remaining persons certified by the board **or the state examiner**. This procedure shall be followed until the position has been filled by appointment of one of the persons certified from the list and willing to accept the appointment, or until each person whose name appears upon the list has in this manner been certified for the vacancy.

* * *

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____