
DIGEST

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HB 261 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Stagni

Abstract: Relative to the municipal fire and police civil service board, requires the respective governing body to conduct a background check on each person under consideration for appointment to a board.

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, creates a municipal fire and police civil service board in each parish, municipality, and fire protection district composed of five members appointed by the respective governing body. 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. Provides further with respect to the qualifications of board members.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the respective governing body to conduct a background check on any person being considered for appointment to the board. Provides that no person is eligible for appointment or may serve as a member of the board if his background check reveals that he has been convicted of a felony or has committed a civil rights violation in the 10 years immediately preceding his appointment.

(Adds R.S. 33:2476(B)(1)(f) and 2536(B)(1)(d))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove proposed law that prohibits a person from being appointed to serve on the board

if he has been convicted of or terminated from previous employment for certain criminal or civil offenses in the 10 years prior to appointment and instead prohibits a person from being appointed to serve on the board if he has been convicted of a felony in the 10 years prior to appointment.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Prohibit a person who has committed a civil rights violation in the previous 10 years from serving on a board.