DIGEST

HB 763 Original   2022 Regular Session   Travis Johnson

Abstract: Provides that the police chief for the town of Ferriday shall be elected rather than appointed.

Present law (R.S. 33:381(B) and 385.1) requires that the chief of police in municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of aldermen form of government) be elected at large and an elector of the municipality. Further requires a candidate for the office of police chief to be domiciled in the municipality in which he is seeking office for at least one year (six months if a village) immediately preceding his candidacy. Permits continued appointment of chief of police where appointed as of Aug. 1, 1970.

Present law (R.S. 33:381.1) alternatively authorizes appointment of the chief of police by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen when authorized by a majority of the electors of the municipality. Requires presentation of a petition, signed by at least 25% of such electors, prior to holding a special election on the question. Prohibits another election on the same question for at least four years.

Present law (R.S. 33:381.2) also provides a procedure for the election or appointment of a marshal who is the chief of police in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less. Authorizes appointment of the chief of police by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen when authorized by a majority of the electors of the municipality at an election held for that purpose. Alternatively provides that the electors may authorize that the chief of police be elected. Requires an ordinance adopted by 2/3 vote of the governing authority to submit the question of the appointment or election of the chief of police to the electorate. Prohibits another election on the same question for at least four years.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provisions that permit the continuation of an appointed chief if appointed prior to 1970 are applicable to the town of Ferriday.

Proposed law provides instead that the police chief for the town of Ferriday shall be elected at large. Requires that the election for police chief be held at the same time as a regularly scheduled election in the town of Ferriday. Requires the appointed chief to remain in office until the elected chief is sworn in and takes office.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(35))