

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

CIVIL SERVICE/FIRE & POL: Provides relative to the position of deputy police chief in the city of Jennings

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2541.1(B)(3), relative to the city of Jennings; to provide  
3 relative to the municipal fire and police civil service; to provide relative to the  
4 position of deputy police chief; to provide relative to eligibility for admission to the  
5 competitive test; and to provide for related matters.

6 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
7 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
8 Louisiana.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 33:2541.1(B)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §2541.1. Deputy chief of police; competitive appointment

12 \* \* \*

13 B.

14 \* \* \*

15 (3)(a) Eligibility for admission to the competitive test for deputy chief of  
16 police shall be limited to members of the same department as the chief of police at  
17 the time of appointment.

18 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,  
19 in the city of Jennings, eligibility for admission to the competitive test for deputy

1 chief of police is not limited to members of the same department as the chief of  
2 police at the time of appointment.

3 \* \* \*

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)]

HB 79 Original

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Romero

**Abstract:** Provides relative to eligibility for admission to the competitive test for the position of deputy police chief in the city of Jennings.

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 law.

Present law relative to both systems, provides that the classified service shall comprise every position, except those in the unclassified service to which the right of employee selection, appointment, supervision, and discharge is vested in the police chief, subject to approval of the appointing authority. Provides that the positions of police chief and assistant police chief shall be in the classified service. Provides further with respect to which positions are in the classified and unclassified service.

Present law additionally authorizes the governing authority to create, by ordinance, the competitive classified position of deputy police chief. Provides that the right of selection, appointment, supervision, and discharge is vested in the police chief, subject to approval of the appointing authority. Further provides that the position of deputy police chief is not the same as the position of assistant police chief as provided in present law.

Present law requires the deputy police chief to have at least eight years of full-time law enforcement experience and to at least hold the rank of sergeant in the classified police service at the time of his appointment. Provides exceptions for the cities of Jennings, Oakdale, and St. Martinville.

Present law limits eligibility for admission to the competitive test for deputy police chief to members of the same department as the police chief at the time of appointment.

Proposed law excepts the city of Jennings from the present law eligibility requirements.

(Amends R.S. 33:2541.1(B)(3))