
DIGEST

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HB 4 Re-Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Requires the House and Senate committees on governmental affairs to meet prior to the 2027 R.S. to prepare legislation for introduction in the 2027 R.S. to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention and proposes provisions for consideration by the committees.

Proposed law requires the House and Senate committees on governmental affairs to meet prior to the 2027 R.S. to prepare legislation for introduction in the 2027 R.S. to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention. The committees shall consider including in the proposed legislation the following proposals:

- (1) Call the convention to convene at noon on April 10, 2028, to frame a new constitution for the state.
- (2) Provide for 93 delegates as follows: 83 elected delegates and 10 delegates appointed by the governor.
- (3) Provide for the nature of the service of delegates and staff of the convention.
- (4) Provide for the qualification and election of delegates at the spring 2028 open primary election by plurality vote. Provide that two delegates shall be elected from each Senate district. Provide that one delegate shall be elected from each Public Service Commission district. Provide for the method of qualifying for candidate and associated qualifying fees.
- (5) Grant to the convention the authority to frame a new state constitution. Provide that the proposed constitution shall provide that provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 dedicated to that purpose. Provisions made statutory and contained in the dedicated statutory title, which shall be established as Title 57, may only be changed by law adopted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.
- (6) Provide relative to litigation filed relative to the calling of and conduct of the convention.
- (7) Provide for organizational considerations, including the taking of oaths and establishment of committees.

- (8) Provide for the start of the convention on April 10, 2028, and completion of the convention's work no later than Oct. 15, 2028.
- (9) Provide for convention staff, budget, committees, meeting site, and other considerations.
- (10) Provide for the compensation of delegates and payment of convention expenses.
- (11) Provide that the constitution proposed for submission be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection at a special election on Dec. 16, 2028.
- (12) Provide that the constitution shall become effective at midnight on Dec. 31, 2028, except as otherwise provided in the constitution.

Proposed law provides for the House and Senate committees on governmental affairs to adopt rules of procedure for the convention based on the 1973 convention rules and a schedule for the convention and convention committees.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

Timetable of Proposed Events for

<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
Qualification period for delegate candidates	12/15/2027-12/17/2027
Election of delegates	3/25/2028 (open primary)
Convention to convene	4/10/2028 (noon)
Convention committees to submit reports to the full convention no later than	9/15/2028
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor no later than	10/15/2028
Election for submission of proposed constitution	12/16/2028 (open general)
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/28 (midnight)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Change the relevant dates for the convention and related elections as follows:

Action	Date - Original	Date – Amendment
Qualification period for delegate candidates	7/29/26-7/31/26	12/15/27-12/17/27
Primary election of delegates	11/3/2026	3/25/28
General election of delegates	12/12/2026	NONE
Convention to convene	12/29/2026 (noon)	4/10/28
Convention committees to submit reports to the full convention no later than	9/29/2027	9/15/28
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor no later than	10/29/2027	10/15/28
Election for submission of proposed constitution	11/20/2027 (Gubernatorial general)	12/16/28 (Open general)
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/27 (midnight)	12/31/28 (midnight)

2. Provide that election delegates shall be elected by plurality at the spring primary election in 2028, instead of by majority vote at the fall primary and general elections in 2026.
3. Specifically provide that when calling the special election for delegates, the governor shall be subject to the procedures provided for in present law for calling a special election.
4. Provide the method for qualifying for candidates for delegate and associated qualifying fees.
5. Provide for the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to meet and adopt rules and a schedule for the convention and committees of the convention, instead of legislative staff preparing rules for adoption by the convention.
6. Provide that on the day after he receives the proposed constitution, the governor shall call an election to submit the proposed amendment to the voters.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide the procedure for the election of candidates for delegate from each Senate district and from each Public Service Commission district.
2. Remove the requirement that provisions of the constitution continued as statutes may

only be changed by law adopted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

3. Provide for the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to meet prior to the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature, rather than prior to the convening of the convention.
4. Require the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to propose rules for the convention for adoption by the legislature during the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature, rather than require the committees to adopt rules for the convention.

The House Floor Amendments to the reengrossed bill:

1. Instead of providing for the calling of a constitutional convention, provide for the House and Senate committees on governmental affairs to meet prior to the 2027 R.S. to prepare legislation for introduction in the 2027 R.S. to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention.
2. Provide proposals for consideration by the committees.