
DIGEST

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 258

2026 Regular Session

Beaulieu

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

ETHICS/DUAL OFFICEHOLDG: Provides for exceptions to the dual officeholding laws for volunteer firefighters and judicial branch employees

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Add an exception for members, appointees, designees, or officers of any unpaid advisory committee, project, working group, or commission.
2. Specify that persons employed in the judicial branch may serve as an appointed officer of a board, committee, task force, or commission in another branch of government.
3. Provide an effective date.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Added a prohibition that no person holding a full-time appointive office or full-time employment in the government of this state or of a political subdivision thereof, shall at the same time serve on any board, commission, or committee not specifically required by law for the performance of his duties.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Provide that a person serving as a judge ad hoc and compensated on a per diem basis shall not be considered a public employee for the purposes of membership on the La. Board of Ethics.
2. Provide a limited exception for a qualified court reporter employed by the federal government to serve at the same time as a court reporter for the state.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law (R.S. 42:63) regulates dual officeholding and dual employment in order to prevent conflicts of interest and to promote and maintain citizen trust in government. Prohibits certain specific combinations of public office and employment, including a prohibition against holding a full-time appointive office or full-time employment in the government of La. or of a political subdivision thereof and at the same time holding another full-time appointive office or full-time employment in the government of the state, in the government of a political subdivision thereof, or in a combination of these. Further prohibits a person holding an elective office in a political subdivision of this state from at the same time holding another elective office or full-time appointive office in the government of this state or in the government of a political subdivision thereof. Provides that no such person shall hold at the same time employment in the government of this state, or in the same political subdivision in which he holds an elective office. In addition provides that no sheriff, assessor, or clerk of court shall hold any office or employment under a parish governing authority.

Present law (R.S. 18:64) additionally prohibits a person from holding a combination of offices and employments that are determined to be incompatible because of the existence of certain conditions set forth in present law.

Proposed law retains present law prohibitions and provides the following additional general exceptions:

- (1) For members or officers of a volunteer fire department or a combination fire department.
- (2) For members, appointees, designees, or officers of any unpaid advisory committee, project, working group, or commission.

Present law (R.S. 42:63) provides that no person holding office or employment in one branch of the state government shall at the same time hold another office or employment in any other branch of the state government.

Proposed law retains present law except to allow a person holding employment in the judicial branch, including as judge ad hoc or pro tempore, to hold at the same time a part-time appointive office in another branch as a designee or appointed member or officer of any board, committee, task force, or commission.

Present law (R.S. 42:1132) provides that no public employee, except a person who is a public employee solely because of his service as a member of the board, shall serve as a member of the La. Board of Ethics and no former public employee shall serve as a member of the board within six months of the termination of his employment.

Proposed law provides that a person serving as a judge ad hoc and compensated on a per diem basis shall not be considered a public employee for the purposes of membership on the La. Board of Ethics.

Proposed law provides that a qualified court reporter who holds employment in the federal

government may serve at the same time as a court reporter for a court in the judicial branch of this state or of a local governmental subdivision.

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

(Adds R.S. 66(A)(11) and (12), (Q), and (R))