

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 431

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARLSON, BILLINGS, CARVER, COX, DOMANGUE,
FARNUM, FREIBERG, GADBERRY, JACKSON, LYONS, MARCELLE,
MURRAY, SAWYER, AND STAGNI AND SENATOR LUNEAU

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:1420.31, relative to local government officials; to provide
3 relative to training requirements for certain local government officials; to provide
4 relative to resources and training offered by state agencies, associations, or groups
5 that provide municipal governance training; to provide relative to subject matter
6 requirements for such resources and training; to provide for reporting of certain
7 information; to provide exceptions; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 33:1420.31 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §1420.31. Local government officials; training; ~~certain municipalities~~

12 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all mayors
13 shall, and members of the governing authorities of municipalities with a population
14 of fifteen thousand persons or less according the latest federal decennial census may,
15 participate in workshops and other training courses offered by state agencies,
16 associations, or groups that provide training to local government officials, which are
17 intended to assist such officials in carrying out their duties by enhancing their
18 knowledge of laws regulating their respective municipalities. Any such elected
19 official may use any local government resource provided by such agencies,
20 associations, or groups to the officials and their respective municipalities and make
21 such resources available to administrative staff members.

22 B. Any state agency, association, or group provided for in Subsection A of
23 this Section ~~may~~ shall work jointly with the Louisiana Municipal Association to
24 provide workshops, training courses, and other resources to the elected officials and
25 may offer incentives to the officials, such as continuing education credits or

1 certificates for specialization in certain subject matters, to encourage their use of
 2 resources and attendance at workshops and training courses.

3 C. All mayors shall earn not less than sixteen hours of credit annually
 4 through the attendance at workshops, national conferences, and other training
 5 courses, including continuing legal education, that are offered by state agencies,
 6 associations, or groups and that are approved by the Louisiana Municipal
 7 Association as provided in this Section.

8 D. The training requirement provided for in Subsection C of this Section
 9 shall include any training that is required by state law, including the following:

- 10 (1) Ethics training pursuant to R.S. 42:1170.
- 11 (2) Sexual harassment prevention training pursuant to R.S. 42:343.
- 12 (3) Cybersecurity training pursuant to R.S. 42:1267.
- 13 (4) Campaign finance training pursuant to R.S. 42:1170.
- 14 (5) Training on procurement and letting of public contracts pursuant to R.S.
 15 33:1420.32.
- 16 (6) Emergency preparedness training pursuant to R.S. 29:726(F)(2).

17 E. The Louisiana Municipal Association shall establish the training courses
 18 offered to elected officials pursuant to Subsection C of this Section within, at a
 19 minimum, the following categories of municipal governance:

- 20 (1) The Lawrason Act and municipal authority.
- 21 (2) The roles and responsibilities of mayors and municipal councils.
- 22 (3) Public budgeting, finance, audits, and procurement laws.
- 23 (4) Ethics and conflicts of interest.
- 24 (5) Human resources, personnel management, and civil service.
- 25 (6) Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.
- 26 (7) Public safety, emergency preparedness, and police and fire operations.
- 27 (8) Utility operations and infrastructure management.
- 28 (9) Planning, zoning, annexation, and land use.
- 29 (10) Economic development and community engagement.
- 30 (11) Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure.

1 (12) Municipal best practices and compliance.

2 (13) Tax codes, revenue authority, and financial administration.

3 (14) Municipal retirement systems.

4 F.(1) Each mayor shall attest to his compliance with the training and
5 continuing education requirements of this Section using a form provided by the
6 legislative auditor. The attestation of the mayor shall be included with and made part
7 of the municipality's submission of its annual financial statements to the legislative
8 auditor as required by R.S. 24:513.

9 (2) The licensed certified public accountant engaged to perform the review
10 or audit of the municipality shall include verification of the mayor's compliance with
11 the training and continuing education requirements of this Section as part of the
12 accountant's engaged work.

13 (3) The legislative auditor shall maintain on his website a public list, by
14 municipality, of mayors who are compliant and who are non-compliant with the
15 training and continuing education requirements of this Section.

16 ~~E. G. The provisions of this Part are applicable to any person who is~~
17 ~~appointed temporarily to fill a vacancy in an elective office of any municipality~~
18 ~~provided for in Subsection A of this Section~~ The provisions of this Part shall not
19 apply to any person who is appointed temporarily to fill a vacancy in the office of
20 mayor if the duration of such appointment is less than one year.

21 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____