The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by J. Ashley Mitchell Carter.

DIGEST

SB 55

2016 Regular Session

Johns

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> establishes and provides for the La. Governmental Reorganization Commission. Authorizes the commission to review and make recommendations in the form of legislative proposals to modify, eliminate, or consolidate the programs, agencies, functions, and services of the executive branch of state government as determined necessary by the commission to maximize the efficient operation of state government and the provision of necessary services.

Requires commission proposals to be approved by the legislature prior to having any effect and requires the consideration of every proposal by the legislature. Prohibits the commission from making proposals affecting the office of the governor, the legislature, and the state courts and judges thereof. Authorizes the commission to review and conduct investigations of governmental operations in closed meetings. Prohibits any action on a proposed recommendation except in an open meeting and with an opportunity for public review and comment.

Provides for the selection of nine commissioners, seven to be appointed by the governor, one to be elected by the House of Representatives, and one to be elected by the Senate, all from nominees proposed by the presidents of specified private colleges. Requires that the membership of the commission be representative of the state's population. Requires that vacancies be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Provides that the commission exists for a term of four years beginning Jan. 1, 2017, and permits it to be continued once, upon a two-thirds vote of the elected members of both houses of the legislature for an additional four-year term. Provides that the commissioners serve terms concurrent with the term of the commission and permits the commissioners to be reappointed. Authorizes the commission to terminate itself any time after June 30, 2018, by a vote of six or more commissioners.

Prohibits a commissioner from becoming a candidate for any state or federal elective office for two years after the end of his service. Requires commissioners be compensated in the same amount as the judges of the courts of appeal. Authorizes the employment of staff.

Requires every proposal of the commission to be considered by the legislature. Provides for procedures for the introduction, consideration, and voting on such proposals by the legislature. Limits the legislature to amending or rejecting proposals and provides that the failure to reject is deemed approval of a proposal. Requires no fewer than 63 votes in the House and 24 in the Senate to amend or reject a proposal. Requires and provides for the governor to sign, veto, or not sign every proposal approved by the legislature that is not a proposal to amend the constitution. Provides for proposals to amend the constitution to be presented for the approval of the people.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the election to be held on November 8, 2016.

(Adds Cons. Art. III, Section 21)