DIGEST

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HB 471 Original   2016 Regular Session   Danahay

Abstract: Provides qualifications for registrars of voters.

Present constitution (Art. XI, §5) provides that the governing authority of each parish shall appoint a registrar of voters, whose compensation, removal from office for cause, bond, powers, and functions shall be provided by law.

Present law (R.S. 18:52) requires the registrar to be a resident and qualified voter of the parish in which he is to perform his duties.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law additionally requires each applicant to fill the office of registrar of voters to be a registered voter. Provides that if appointed to fill the office of registrar of voters, the applicant shall become a resident and registered voter of the parish in which he is to perform his duties prior to taking the oath of office.

Proposed law requires the registrar to possess at least one of the following at the time of appointment:

(1)   A baccalaureate degree and three years of full-time, professional work experience.

(2)   Nine years of full-time, professional work experience.

(3)   Six years of full-time employment in a registrar's office in La.

Provides that for purposes of proposed law, "professional work experience" means experience in an occupation which requires specialized and theoretical knowledge usually acquired through college training or through work experience and other training which provides comparable knowledge.

Proposed law provides that it does not apply to any registrar appointed prior to the effective date of proposed law.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. _____ of this 2016 R.S. of the Legislature is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 18:52)