

**RÉSUMÉ DIGEST****ACT 419 (HB 690)****2015 Regular Session****Lorusso**

Existing law authorizes the governing body of any municipality or parish to establish a local housing authority if there exists a shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling accommodations. Provides that the chief elected official of the municipality or parish, or if no such official exists then the governing body, shall appoint five commissioners to constitute the housing authority's governing body.

Existing law provides for exceptions relative to the number of commissioners for certain housing authorities.

Prior law provided that the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) was governed by seven commissioners appointed by the mayor.

New law provides that HANO is governed by eight commissioners. Provides for the appointment of one commissioner as a "landlord commissioner". Provides for the landlord commissioner to be appointed by the mayor from a list of three nominees submitted by the Landlords Advisory Committee. Provides that if the mayor fails to make an appointment within 60 days, the city council of New Orleans shall make the appointment. Specifies that no person who has or is seeking a business or financial relationship with HANO or who otherwise has a conflict pursuant to existing law (ethics code) regarding service on HANO shall be eligible to be appointed as the landlord commissioner.

Prior law provided that the commissioners of HANO served terms concurrent with the mayor.

New law provides that commissioners serve five-year terms, except that the landlord commissioner serves a term concurrent with the mayor. Provides that the commissioners serving on the effective date of new law will continue to serve until the expiration of their terms. Provides that the successors of such commissioners will be appointed as provided in new law. Provides that the mayor will fill a vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of a term of any commissioner serving on the effective date of new law.

Existing law provides that a commissioner may be removed for neglect of duty, misconduct in office, or conviction of any felony by the appointing authority.

New law requires that a HANO landlord commissioner convicted of a felony while serving as a commissioner be disqualified and removed from office by the appointing authority.

Existing law requires a hearing by the parish or municipal governing authority if a removed commissioner requests such a hearing. Authorizes the governing authority to determine if the removal is upheld. New law, applicable only to the HANO landlord commissioner, requires that the appointing authority (the mayor) hold such a hearing if requested and make the final determination.

Effective August 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 40:531(B), 532, and 537(B); Adds R.S. 40:537(A)(6))