

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 465

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

CIVIL SERVICE/FIRE & POL: (Constitutional Amendment) Removes the Baton Rouge Police Department from the municipal fire and police civil service system

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article X, Sections 16 and 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide relative to municipal fire and police civil service; to remove the Baton Rouge police department from the system; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article X, Sections 16 and 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§16. Establishment of System

Section 16. A system of classified fire and police civil service is created and established. ~~It~~ Except as otherwise provided by this Part, it shall apply to all municipalities having a population exceeding thirteen thousand and operating a regularly paid fire and municipal police department and to all parishes and fire protection districts operating a regularly paid fire department.

* * *

§18. Prior Provisions

Section 18.(A) Except as inconsistent with this Part, the provisions of Article XIV, Section 15.1 of the Constitution of 1921 are retained and continued in force and effect as statutes. By law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each

1 house, the legislature may amend or otherwise modify any of those provisions, but
2 it may not abolish the system of classified civil service for such firemen and
3 municipal policemen or make the system inapplicable to any municipality having a
4 population exceeding thirteen thousand according to the latest decennial federal
5 census or to any parish or fire protection district operating a regularly paid fire
6 department. However, in a municipality having a population exceeding four hundred
7 thousand, paid firemen and municipal policemen shall be included if a majority of
8 the electors therein voting at an election held for that purpose approve their
9 inclusion. Such an election shall be called by the governing authority of the affected
10 city within one year after the effective date of this constitution.

11 (B) The provisions of Article XIV, Section 15.1 of the Constitution of 1921
12 are not applicable to the Baton Rouge police department. The legislature shall enact
13 no law providing for inclusion of the Baton Rouge police department in a civil
14 service system that includes other police departments.

15 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
16 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5,
17 2024.

18 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
19 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
20 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
21 follows:

22 Do you support an amendment to remove the Baton Rouge police department
23 from the municipal fire and police civil service system? (Amends Article X,
24 Sections 16 and 18)

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 465 Original

2024 Regular Session

Jordan

Abstract: Removes the Baton Rouge police department from the municipal fire and police civil service system.

Present constitution creates a system of classified fire and police civil service for all municipalities having a population exceeding 13,000 and operating a regularly paid fire and municipal police department and to all parishes and fire protection districts operating a regularly paid fire department.

Present constitution retains as statutes provisions of the 1921 Constitution of La. applicable to the municipal fire and police civil service. Authorizes the legislature, by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house, to amend those provisions but prohibits the legislature from abolishing the system or making the system inapplicable to any municipality having a population exceeding 13,000 or to any parish or fire protection district operating a regularly paid fire department.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the provisions of the 1921 Constitution of La. are not applicable to the Baton Rouge police department. Prohibits the legislature from enacting a law providing for inclusion of the Baton Rouge police department in a civil service system that includes other police departments.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 5, 2024.

(Amends Const. Art. X, §§16 and 18)