

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE PUGH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to study the impact of filling vacancies in certain positions in the classified police service on a competitive basis through the selection and appointment of a person with one of the five highest test scores and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 16 of the Constitution of Louisiana establishes a system of classified fire and police civil service in each municipality having a population exceeding thirteen thousand and operating a regularly paid fire and municipal police department and in each parish and fire protection district operating a regularly paid fire department; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:2471 and 2531 et seq. establish classified civil service systems for policemen and firemen employed in municipalities with a population of not less than seven thousand and not more than two hundred fifty thousand persons according to the latest federal decennial census and in all parishes and fire protection districts; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:2491 and 2551 require municipal fire and police civil service boards to establish and maintain employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to the various classes of positions in the classified service; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 33:2491 and 2551, the names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test must be placed upon the promotional employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their total seniority in the departmental service and the names of persons attaining a passing score on a competitive test must be placed upon the competitive employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their final test scores; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:2494 and 2554 provide for filling vacancies in positions in the classified fire and police civil service from promotional and competitive employment lists; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to current law, an appointing authority is required to fill vacancies in the classified police service for positions with the rank of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major, or commander from a promotional employment list and appointments are granted to persons with the greatest seniority in the departmental service; and

WHEREAS, many argue that a better method would be to fill such vacancies on a competitive basis from a list of eligibles as provided in R.S. 33:2491 and 2551 and that appointments should be awarded to a person who has one of the five highest test scores; and

WHEREAS, many also argue that the right of selection and appointment for such positions should be vested in the chief of police and subject to the approval of the appointing authority.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to study the impact of filling vacancies in certain positions in the classified police service on a competitive basis through the selection and appointment of a person with one of the five highest test scores.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall specifically solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of those who can provide relevant information and suggestions to the committee based on their expertise and experience, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- (2) A representative of the Baton Rouge Union of Police.
- (3) A representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the AFL-CIO.
- (4) A representative of the Louisiana Union of Police Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all departments, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the committee in providing information to assist the committee in carrying out its responsibility pursuant to this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report the results of its study and its recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana by March 1, 2013.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES