
DIGEST

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LeBlanc, et al.

HB No. 576

Abstract: Prohibits the legislative auditor and his employees from participating or engaging in certain specified political activity (similar to restrictions on classified civil servants) and provides that a former legislative auditor is not eligible to qualify for elected public office for a period of two years following the termination of his service as legislative auditor.

Present constitution provides that there shall be a legislative auditor responsible solely to the legislature and that he shall serve as a fiscal advisor to it. Requires that he perform the duties and functions provided by law related to auditing fiscal records of the state, its agencies, and political subdivisions. Present constitution provides that the legislative auditor shall be elected by the concurrence of a majority of the elected members of each house and may be removed by the concurrence of two-thirds of the elected members of each house.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution and further prohibits the legislative auditor and any employee in the office of the legislative auditor from participating or engaging in political activity; being a candidate for nomination or election to public office; or being a member of any national, state, or local committee of a political party or faction; making or soliciting contributions for any political party, faction, or candidate; or taking active part in the management of the affairs of a political party, faction, candidate, or any political campaign. Specifies that the legislative auditor or any employee in the office of the legislative auditor is not prohibited from exercising his right as a citizen to express his opinion privately, to serve as a commissioner at the polls, and to cast his vote as he desires. Defines "political activity" as an effort to support or oppose the election of a candidate for political office or to support a particular political party in an election. Provides that these prohibitions shall be administered and enforced by the Louisiana Board of Ethics as provided by law.

Proposed constitutional amendment additionally provides that no former legislative auditor shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his service as legislative auditor, be eligible to qualify for elected public office.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the gubernatorial primary election to be held in 2003.

(Amends Const. Art. III, §11)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Provides that the prohibitions against certain political activity by the legislative auditor shall be administered and enforced by the Louisiana Board of Ethics as provided by law.