

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 334 (HB 447)

2015 Regular Session

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Existing constitution creates a fire and police civil service system applicable to municipalities of over 13,000 in population and parishes and fire protection districts. Provides that the system is subject to Art. XIV, §15.1 of the 1921 constitution made statutory by the 1974 constitution. Existing law creates and provides for two fire and police civil service systems: (1) one applicable to any municipality which operates paid police and fire departments and which has a population of not fewer than 13,000 persons; and (2) one applicable to any parish, fire protection district, and any municipality with a population of fewer than 13,000, but not fewer than 7,000 persons.

Existing law, relative to both systems, creates a municipal fire and police civil service board in the local government. Requires the board to establish and maintain employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to various classes of positions in the classified service.

Existing law requires each person selected for appointment to an entry-level position in the classified service as a firefighter, firefighter/operator, or police officer who has completed formal training as provided in existing law prior to appointment to immediately begin the working test. Requires any person selected for appointment to any such position who has not completed formal training prior to appointment to be employed as a recruit and to immediately begin formal training. In the city of Shreveport, the provisions of existing law apply to persons appointed to an entry-level position as a Fire Communications Officer (I).

Existing law requires that formal training as required by existing law for a firefighter or firefighter/operator be demonstrated by certification as Firefighter I in accordance with National Fire Protection Assoc. Standard 1001 and for a police officer be demonstrated by certification from a peace officer standards and training accredited training program as provided by existing law (R.S. 40:2405(A)). In the city of Shreveport, formal training for a Fire Communications Officer (I) shall be demonstrated by certification as Telecommunicator in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standards 1061 and 1221.

New law adds an exception for persons selected for appointment to an entry-level position as a firefighter in municipalities with a population of not less than 200,000 persons and not more than 240,000 persons. Prohibits any such person from starting the working test period until the person successfully completes formal training as required by new law. Provides that formal training means completion of a fire training academy provided by the appointing authority. Requires all persons to complete the academy whether or not the person was certified as Firefighter I in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 prior to appointment.

Existing law requires that the formal training be provided for through the appointing authority. Requires that the formal training period conclude six months from the date of original appointment or upon completion of the training, whichever occurs first, at which time the working test shall commence.

New law provides an exception for municipalities with a population of not less than 200,000 persons and not more than 240,000 persons. Authorizes the appointing authority to provide for the duration of the fire training academy. Requires a recruit to immediately begin the working test period upon completion of the academy.

Existing law provides that nothing in existing law shall be construed to require that a newly appointed employee be terminated should he fail to enroll in or complete formal training within the six-month formal training period.

New law, with respect to municipalities with a population of not less than 200,000 persons and not more than 240,000 persons, cannot be construed to require that a newly appointed employee be terminated should he fail to enroll in or successfully complete the fire training academy.

Effective August 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 33:2495.3)