
DIGEST

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HB 96 Original

2019 Regular Session

Pylant

Abstract: Provides that any person hired into state civil service on or after January 1, 2020, shall be in the unclassified service.

Present constitution provides that state civil service is established and includes all persons holding offices and positions of trust or employment in the employ of the state, or an instrumentality thereof, and any joint state and federal agency, joint state and parochial agency, or joint state and municipal agency, but shall not include members of the state police service or persons holding offices and positions of any municipal board of health or any parish or municipality. Present constitution also provides that state civil service is divided into the unclassified and the classified service and provides that persons not included in the unclassified service are in the classified service. Present constitution specifies that the following officers and employees are in the unclassified service:

- (1) Elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices.
- (2) Heads of each principal executive department appointed by the governor.
- (3) Registrars of voters.
- (4) Members of state boards, authorities, and commissions.
- (5) One private secretary to the president of each college or university.
- (6) One person holding a confidential position and one principal assistant or deputy to any officer, board, commission, or authority mentioned in (1), (2), (3), or (4) above, except civil service departments.
- (7) Members of the military or naval forces.
- (8) Teaching and professional staffs, and administrative officers of schools, colleges, and universities of the state, and bona fide students of those institutions employed by any state agency.
- (9) Employees, deputies, and officers of the legislature and of the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, assessors, and of all offices provided for in Article V of the present constitution.

- (10) Commissioners of elections, watchers, and custodians and deputy custodians of voting machines.
- (11) Railroad employees whose working conditions and retirement benefits are regulated by federal agencies in accordance with federal law.
- (12) The director, deputy director, and all employees of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Present constitution further provides that additional positions may be added to the unclassified service and those positions may be revoked by rules adopted by the state civil service commission.

Present constitution provides that permanent appointments and promotions in the classified state service shall be made only after certification by the dept. of civil services under a general system based upon merit, efficiency, fitness, and length of service, as ascertained by examination, which so far as practical, shall be competitive. Further provides classified employees rights to appeal disciplinary actions and specified discrimination to the civil service commission. Present constitution provides prohibitions on political activity by classified employees and further prohibits persons from soliciting political contributions from classified employees and prohibits the use of a position in state service to punish or coerce the political action of a classified employee.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that all employees hired into the employ of the state on or after Jan. 1, 2020, shall be in the unclassified service of state civil service.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 12, 2019.

(Adds Const. Art. X, Sec. 2 (C))