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 DIGEST

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SB 31 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Appel

Act No. 1492 of the 1997 R.S. proposed constitutional provisions that were ratified by the citizens of the state. Prohibited the following persons from qualifying as a candidate for elective public office or taking public elective office or appointment of honor, trust, or profit in this state:

- (1) A person who has been convicted within this state of a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies, or who has been convicted under the laws of any other state or of the United States or of any foreign government or country of a crime which, if committed in this state, would be a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies and has not afterwards been pardoned either by the governor of this state or by the officer of the state, nation, government or country having such authority to pardon in the place where the person was convicted and sentenced.
- (2) A person actually under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

Provided further that a person who desired to qualify as a candidate for or hold an elective office, who had been convicted of a felony and who had served his sentence, but had not been pardoned for such felony, would be permitted to qualify as a candidate for or hold such office if the date of his qualifying for such office was more than 15 years after the date of the completion of his original sentence.

The La. Supreme Court, in the case of *Shepherd v. Schedler*, 2015-CA-1750, held Act No. 1492 to be null and void because the Act was not constitutionally adopted.

Proposed constitutional amendment prohibits the following persons from qualifying as a candidate for elective public office or holding elective public office or appointment of honor, trust, or profit in this state:

- (1) A person actually under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.
- (2) A person who has been convicted within this state of a felony or been convicted under the laws of any other state or of the United States or of any foreign government or country of a crime which, if committed in this state, would be a felony, who has exhausted all legal remedies, and who has not afterwards been pardoned either by the governor of this state or by the officer of the state, nation, government, or country having such authority to pardon in the place where the person was convicted and sentenced.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that it does not prohibit a person convicted of a felony from qualifying as a candidate for elective public office or holding such elective public office or appointment of honor, trust, or profit if more than five years have elapsed since the completion of his original sentence for the conviction. Proposed constitutional amendment provides that it does not prohibit a person from being employed by the state or a political subdivision.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 6, 2018.

(Adds Const. Art I, Sec. 10.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Reduces the prohibition to run or hold office from 15 to 5 years.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the proposed constitutional amendment does not prohibit a person from being employed by the state or a political subdivision.
2. Change terminology from "take" an office to "hold" an office.
3. Allow a person convicted of a felony to hold an appointment of honor, trust, or profit if more than five years have elapsed since the completion of his original sentence for the conviction.