

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 763

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON

LOCAL OFFFL/POLICE CHIEFS: Provides relative to the office of police chief in the town of Ferriday

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:381(C)(35), relative to the town of Ferriday; to provide relative to the  
3 office of police chief; to provide that the office is elective rather than appointive; and  
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
6 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
7 Louisiana.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 33:381(C)(35) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §381. Municipal officers

11 \* \* \*

12 C.

13 \* \* \*

14 (35) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the chief of police for the  
15 town of Ferriday shall be elected at large. An election to fill the office of chief of  
16 police shall be held at the same time as a regularly scheduled election in the town of  
17 Ferriday. The appointed chief shall remain in office until the elected chief is sworn  
18 in and takes office.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 763 Original

2022 Regular Session

Travis Johnson

**Abstract:** Provides that the police chief for the town of Ferriday shall be elected rather than appointed.

Present law (R.S. 33:381(B) and 385.1) requires that the chief of police in municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of aldermen form of government) be elected at large and an elector of the municipality. Further requires a candidate for the office of police chief to be domiciled in the municipality in which he is seeking office for at least one year (six months if a village) immediately preceding his candidacy. Permits continued appointment of chief of police where appointed as of Aug. 1, 1970.

Present law (R.S. 33:381.1) alternatively authorizes appointment of the chief of police by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen when authorized by a majority of the electors of the municipality. Requires presentation of a petition, signed by at least 25% of such electors, prior to holding a special election on the question. Prohibits another election on the same question for at least four years.

Present law (R.S. 33:381.2) also provides a procedure for the election or appointment of a marshal who is the chief of police in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less. Authorizes appointment of the chief of police by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen when authorized by a majority of the electors of the municipality at an election held for that purpose. Alternatively provides that the electors may authorize that the chief of police be elected. Requires an ordinance adopted by 2/3 vote of the governing authority to submit the question of the appointment or election of the chief of police to the electorate. Prohibits another election on the same question for at least four years.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provisions that permit the continuation of an appointed chief if appointed prior to 1970 are applicable to the town of Ferriday.

Proposed law provides instead that the police chief for the town of Ferriday shall be elected at large. Requires that the election for police chief be held at the same time as a regularly scheduled election in the town of Ferriday. Requires the appointed chief to remain in office until the elected chief is sworn in and takes office.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(35))