

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 141

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAMBURG

POLICE/MUNICIPAL: Provides for the abolition of the office of police chief in the town of Martin

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:381(C)(36), relative to the village of Martin and Red River Parish; to  
3 provide for the abolition of the office of police chief and the police department in the  
4 village of Martin; to authorize the town to contract with other law enforcement  
5 entities in the parish for law enforcement services; to provide for an effective date;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

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

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 §381. Municipal officers

12 \* \* \*

13 C.

14 \* \* \*

15 (36)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the board  
16 of aldermen of the village of Martin may, upon recommendation of the mayor,  
17 abolish the office of chief of police of the village. No such action by the board shall  
18 be effective until the end of the term of the police chief in office at the time of that  
19 action or when a vacancy occurs in the office, whichever occurs first; however, if at  
20 the time of that action the office is filled by an officer temporarily appointed, the  
21 abolition of the office shall become effective as provided by ordinance.

1                    **(b) If the office of chief of police is abolished and the municipal police**  
2                    department is abolished pursuant to R.S. 33:362(C), the mayor and board of  
3                    aldermen may contract with or enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with any  
4                    law enforcement entity or officer within Red River Parish for police services for the  
5                    village.

6                                       \*       \*       \*

7           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
8 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
9 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
10 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
11 effective on the day following such approval.

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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 141 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bamburg

**Abstract:** Provides for the abolition of the office of police chief in the village of Martin and authorizes the municipality to contract for law enforcement services.

Present law provides that the officers of every municipality governed by the provisions of the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of alderman form of government) shall be a mayor, aldermen, a chief of police, a tax collector, and a clerk.

Present law (R.S. 33:362(C)) provides that any department of such a municipality, other than the police department in a municipality with an elected chief of police, shall be created, abolished, merged, or consolidated by the board of aldermen, upon the written recommendation of the mayor.

Present law provides for at-large election of the mayor and police chief in all municipalities. Further provides for exceptions with respect to the chief of police in certain municipalities.

Proposed law provides an exception for the office of police chief in the village of Martin. Provides that the board of aldermen may, upon the recommendation of the mayor, abolish the office of police chief. Provides that the office cannot be abolished until the end of the term of the police chief in office at the time of that action or when a vacancy occurs in the office, whichever occurs first; however, if at the time of that action the office is filled by an officer temporarily appointed, the abolition of the office will become effective as provided by ordinance.

Proposed law provides that if the office of police chief and the police department are abolished pursuant to proposed law and present law, the mayor and board of aldermen may contract with any law enforcement entity or officer within Red River Parish for police services.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(36))