

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 8

BY SENATOR MORRIS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CIVIL SERVICE. Constitutional amendment to provide for persons in the unclassified service and for appointment of persons on the State Civil Service Commission. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article X, Section 2(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to state and city civil service; to authorize additional positions in the unclassified service by law enacted by the legislature; to prohibit the commission from removing persons added to the unclassified service by the legislature unless by law specifically enacted by the legislature; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article X, Section 2(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§2. Classified and Unclassified Service

Section 2.(A)

* * *

(B) Unclassified Service. The unclassified service shall include the following officers and employees in the state and city civil service:

(1) elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices;

(2) the heads of each principal executive department appointed by the governor, the mayor, or the governing authority of a city;

(3) city attorneys;

(4) registrars of voters;

(5) members of state and city boards, authorities, and commissions;

(6) one private secretary to the president of each college or university;

(7) one person holding a confidential position and one principal assistant or deputy to any officer, board, commission, or authority mentioned in (1), (2), (4), or (5) above, except civil service departments;

(8) members of the military or naval forces;

(9) 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, parochial, or municipal agency;

(10) employees, deputies, and officers of the legislature and of the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, each mayor and city attorney, of police juries, school boards, assessors, and of all offices provided for in Article V of this constitution except the offices of clerk of the municipal and traffic courts in New Orleans;

(11) commissioners of elections, watchers, and custodians and deputy custodians of voting machines;

(12) railroad employees whose working conditions and retirement benefits are regulated by federal agencies in accordance with federal law; ~~and~~

(13) the director, deputy director, and all employees of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; ~~and~~

(14) officers, positions, and employees as provided by law enacted by the legislature and these officers, positions or employees may not be removed by the commission.

Additional positions may be added to the unclassified service and those positions may be revoked by rules adopted by a commission. Officers, positions,

1 and employees added to the unclassified service by law enacted by the
 2 legislature may only be removed by law specifically enacted by the legislature.

3 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to
 4 the electors of the state of Louisiana at a statewide election to be held on November 3, 2026,
 5 or at a statewide election authorized by law, whichever occurs first.

6 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election
 7 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
 8 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
 9 follows:

10 "Do you support an amendment to allow the legislature to add officers,
 11 positions, and employees to the unclassified civil service which cannot be
 12 removed unless specifically removed by the legislature?"

13 (Amends Article X, Section 2(B))

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 8 Engrossed

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Morris

Present constitution lists specific positions to be included in the unclassified service of state and city civil service and authorizes a civil service commission to add additional positions in the unclassified service which may be revoked by rules adopted by a commission.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains the present constitution but authorizes the legislature to add officers, positions, and employees to the unclassified service who cannot be removed by the commission.

Present constitution authorizes the commission to add additional positions to the unclassified service which may be revoked by rules of the commission.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains these provisions but provides that the officers, positions, and employees added to the unclassified service by the legislature may only be removed by the legislature.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 3, 2026 or at a statewide election authorized by law, whichever occurs first.

(Amends Const. Art. X, Sec. 2(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds authority for the legislature to add positions to the unclassified service which cannot be removed by the civil service commission.
2. Removes changes to membership of the State Civil Service Commission.
3. Provides for submission to voters on Nov. 3, 2026 or a statewide election authorized by law, whichever occurs first.