

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

HB 285

2025 Regular Session

Bamburg

Present law provides that the officers of every municipality governed by the provisions of the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of aldermen 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 would have provided an exception for the office of police chief in the village of Edgefield. Would have provided that the board of aldermen may, upon the recommendation of the mayor, abolish the office of police chief. Would have provided 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 would have become effective as provided by ordinance.

Proposed law would have provided 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 would have been able to contract with any other law enforcement entity or officer within Red River Parish for police services.

(Proposed to add R.S. 33:381(C)(37))

VETO MESSAGE:

"Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill No. 285 of the 2025 Regular Session, authored by Representative Dennis Bamburg Jr. Both House Bill No. 285 and Senate Bill 60 (Act No. 319 of the 2025 Regular Session) seek to amend R.S. 33:381(C)(37) and eliminate the chief of police position in the Village of Edgefield and the Village of Hall Summit, respectively.

However, a resolution in support of Senate Bill No. 60, presumably adopted in an open meeting and subject to public comment, was submitted by the Village of Hall Summit in support of SB 60. By contrast, no such resolution or any other evidence of formal local input was submitted by Representative Bamburg in connection with House Bill No. 285. In the absence of such submission or other compelling factors, I am not inclined to enact legislation affecting the governance of a municipality.

For this reason, House Bill 285 will not become law."