

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION: Provides for calling a constitutional convention

1 AN ACT

2 To provide for the calling of a constitutional convention for the purpose of framing a new  
3 constitution; to provide for legislative findings; to fix the time and place for the  
4 convention; to provide for the delegates of the convention; to provide for the  
5 organization and staff of the convention; to require that the constitution as adopted  
6 by the convention be submitted to the qualified electors for adoption and to provide  
7 relative to such submission; to provide for the application of specified laws,  
8 including provisions of law containing criminal penalties, to delegates and staff of  
9 the convention; to provide for the disbursement of funds for the convention and  
10 otherwise provide with respect to funds for the convention; to fix the effective date  
11 of the new constitution if approved by the electorate; to provide for an effective date;  
12 and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

15 (A) It has been over fifty years since the Constitution of Louisiana became effective  
16 at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the document which constitutes  
17 the state's basic law has been amended two hundred twenty-one times. At more than  
18 seventy-five thousand words, the Constitution of Louisiana is one of the top five largest  
19 constitutions in the nation.

20 (B) The constitution today contains too many provisions that restrict the legislature  
21 from effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and the document also includes

1 extensive provisions that are so detailed as to be statutory rather than constitutional in nature  
2 and, as a result, require continual constitutional amendment when change is needed.

3 (C) The state constitution needs to be streamlined to the fundamental and  
4 foundational law of the state, including the basic principles of the state, the structure of  
5 government, and the fundamental rights of citizens. Other extremely detailed provisions in  
6 the constitution should be transitioned out of the constitution and made statutory to allow  
7 for flexibility and innovation in legislative solutions to problems of the present and the  
8 future.

9 Section 2. Call for convention; delegates. (A) A constitutional convention is hereby  
10 called, to convene on Tuesday, December 29, 2026, at 12:00 noon, which shall be held for  
11 the purpose of framing a new constitution for the state of Louisiana.

12 (B)(1) There shall be ninety-three delegates to the convention who shall be selected  
13 as follows:

14 (a) Two delegates shall be elected from each of the districts from which members  
15 of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana are elected as provided in R.S. 24:35.1.

16 (b) One delegate shall be elected from each of the districts from which  
17 commissioners of the Public Service Commission are elected as provided in R.S. 45:1161.4.

18 (c) Ten delegates shall be appointed by the governor, none of whom shall be the  
19 governor, the governor's spouse, or a member of the governor's executive staff.

20 (2) Each delegate to the convention shall be an elector of the state of Louisiana, shall  
21 be at least eighteen years of age, and shall be a resident of the state of Louisiana. In  
22 addition, each delegate elected from a district shall be a resident of the district from which  
23 he is elected at the time he qualifies as a candidate for election as a delegate. Any public  
24 official of the governmental subdivisions of the state, whether holding office by election or  
25 appointment, if otherwise qualified, shall be eligible for election or appointment as a  
26 delegate of the convention.

27 (3) The secretary of state shall issue a commission to each delegate.

28 (4)(a) The service of a legislator or other public official or public employee as a  
29 delegate to the convention and the employment or appointment of any public official or  
30 public employee to the staff of the convention and his service on such staff, as authorized

1 and provided in this Act, shall not be construed to constitute dual officeholding or dual  
2 employment within the prohibitions of Part III of Chapter 2 of Title 42 of the Louisiana  
3 Revised Statutes of 1950.

4 (b) The service of a judge as a delegate to the convention shall not be construed as  
5 grounds for recusal.

6 (c) Each delegate shall be considered to be an elected official within the scope of and  
7 subject to the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the  
8 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Each staff member of the convention shall be  
9 considered to be a public employee within the scope of and subject to the provisions of the  
10 Code of Governmental Ethics, Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
11 1950. For purposes of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the  
12 agency and the governmental entity of delegates and staff members of the convention shall  
13 be the convention. For purposes of any other office or employment of any such delegate or  
14 staff member, the provisions of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
15 1950 shall remain applicable.

16 (d) Each delegate to the convention and each staff member of the convention shall  
17 be considered to be a public officer, public official, public employee, or person in a position  
18 of public authority for purposes of the application of the provisions of the Louisiana  
19 Criminal Code.

20 (e) No delegate shall accept or deposit a contribution as defined in R.S. 18:1483 and  
21 no campaign fundraising function shall be held for or by a delegate during the period of time  
22 from Tuesday, December 29, 2026, through Friday, October 29, 2027.

23 (f) The provisions of the Public Records Law shall apply to the convention, its  
24 committees, and delegates to the same extent and with the same limitations as applicable to  
25 records of the legislature and members of the legislature.

26 (g) The provisions of the Open Meetings Law shall apply to the convention and its  
27 committees in the same manner as applicable to the legislature and either house or  
28 committees thereof.

29 (5) Any attorney at law serving as a delegate to the convention or as a member of  
30 the staff of the convention shall be entitled to the absolute right of the continuance of any

1 case in which he is bona fide counsel of record in any court of the state during his attendance  
2 upon the sessions of the convention or meetings of its committees of which he is a member.

3 (C)(1) The election for the delegates to the convention shall be held at the open  
4 primary election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. A runoff election, if necessary,  
5 shall be held at the open general election to be held on Saturday, December 12, 2026. The  
6 governor shall make proclamation and give notice of the election to be held under this  
7 Section not less than forty-five days before the date of the election. Each person desiring  
8 to become a candidate for election as a delegate from a district shall qualify as a candidate  
9 from the district in which he resides by filing a statement of candidacy with the secretary of  
10 state beginning Wednesday, July 29, 2026, and ending Friday, July 31, 2026. Except as  
11 otherwise provided in this Act, the election provided for in this Section shall be held and the  
12 results shall be promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. All qualified  
13 electors shall be entitled to vote without regard to party affiliation. The costs of the election  
14 shall be paid as provided in the Louisiana Election Code for elections in which a  
15 constitutional amendment appears on the ballot.

16 (2) Delegates shall be elected by the qualified electors participating in the election  
17 in the manner provided in Subpart F of Part IV of Chapter 5 of the Louisiana Election Code  
18 for the election of candidates.

19 Section 3. Vacancies. (A) In the event of the resignation, death, or inability to serve  
20 due to a documented illness of an elected delegate, whether before or during the convention,  
21 the governor shall fill such vacancy by appointment of a person from the same district from  
22 which the delegate was elected who possesses the qualifications provided in Section 2 of this  
23 Act.

24 (B) In the event of the resignation, death, or inability due to a documented illness  
25 of an appointed delegate to serve, whether before or during the convention, the vacancy shall  
26 be filled in the same manner and subject to the same qualifications as the original  
27 appointment.

28 Section 4.(A) Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, the convention  
29 shall have full authority to frame a new constitution for the state which shall be submitted

1 to the electors of the state for their approval or rejection at the 2027 gubernatorial general  
2 election to be held on Saturday, November 20, 2027.

3 (B) The proposed revision of the constitution shall provide that provisions of the  
4 Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution  
5 for the state shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised  
6 Statutes of 1950, as amended, dedicated to that purpose. The proposed revision of the  
7 constitution shall provide that such provisions made statutory and contained in the dedicated  
8 statutory title, which shall be established as Title 57, may only be changed by law adopted  
9 by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

10 (C) Any action by the convention in contravention of the provisions of this Section  
11 shall be null and void and of no effect.

12 (D)(1) Any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of this Act,  
13 to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any  
14 action of the convention with the provisions of this Act shall be brought in the Nineteenth  
15 Judicial District Court subject to direct appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court. The matter  
16 shall be tried by preference over other matters, and the court shall render a decision as soon  
17 as practicable.

18 (2) If the action is to determine the validity or conformity of an action of the  
19 convention, such action shall be brought within fifteen days of the action of the convention.

20 Section 5. Severability. (A) The provisions of the proposed revision of the  
21 constitution shall be severable. If any provision of the proposed revision of the constitution  
22 is deemed null and void and of no effect by final judgment of a court of competent  
23 jurisdiction after adoption by the convention but prior to its submission to the electors, then  
24 the provision deemed null and void shall be removed from the proposed revision of the  
25 constitution by the secretary of state and the remainder of the proposed revision of the  
26 constitution shall be submitted to the electors in accordance with this Act.

27 (B) If any provision of the revision of the constitution, or the application thereof, is  
28 deemed invalid after ratification by the electors, such invalidity shall not affect other  
29 provisions, items, or applications of the revision which can be given effect without the  
30 invalid provision, item, or application.

1           Section 6. Convention organization. (A)(1) The delegates to the convention chosen  
2 as provided in this Act shall convene in the House Chamber in the state capitol on Tuesday,  
3 December 29, 2026, at 12:00 noon. The secretary of state shall preside until the chairman  
4 has been elected. The secretary of state, or a designee of the secretary of state, shall attend  
5 the opening of the convention, call the roll of the delegates, and administer the following  
6 oath to the delegates:

7           "I, . . . , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of  
8 the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and  
9 impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as a delegate to the  
10 convention, according to the best of my ability and understanding, and that I will observe  
11 and obey the limitation of authority contained in the Act under which this convention has  
12 assembled. So help me God."

13           (2) No delegate shall be qualified to serve as such unless and until the delegate has  
14 taken and subscribed to the oath in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

15           (B) After the oath has been administered, the delegates shall proceed to effect the  
16 permanent organization of the convention and shall:

17           (1) Elect from among their number a chairman and a vice chairman.

18           (2) Elect from among their number an executive committee, the membership of  
19 which shall be determined by the delegates but which shall include the chairman and vice  
20 chairman.

21           (3) Adopt rules of procedure for the convention, which rules shall not be inconsistent  
22 with the provisions of this Act.

23           (4) Select a chief clerical officer of the convention from among the chief clerical  
24 officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate and their assistants, who shall not  
25 be a delegate and whose duties shall be provided by the rules of procedure for the  
26 convention.

27           (5) Take such other actions as they deem necessary to effect a permanent  
28 organization of the convention.

29           (C) The elections provided for in this Section shall be conducted in the method  
30 provided for the election of candidates as provided in R.S. 18:511 and 512.

1 (D) Prior to the convening of the convention, members of the House of  
2 Representatives and Senate staffs as designated by the presiding officers of the legislature  
3 shall prepare a draft of rules of procedure for consideration, amendment, and adoption by  
4 the convention when it convenes. Such proposed rules shall be based upon the rules of the  
5 constitutional convention convened in 1973, except as inconsistent with the provisions of  
6 this Act, and shall provide that on any question of legislative procedure, when the rules are  
7 silent or inexplicit, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall be considered as  
8 authority. The rules of procedure adopted by the convention shall be subject to later change  
9 as the delegates shall provide therein. No action shall be taken by the convention without  
10 the favorable vote of at least a majority of the delegates. No delegate shall be allowed to  
11 vote by proxy and the rules shall so provide.

12 (E) The convention shall establish fourteen committees, one committee for each  
13 article of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, which shall be charged with the  
14 duty of reviewing and recommending changes to the article of the Constitution of the State  
15 of Louisiana of 1974 to which it is assigned and one executive committee as provided in  
16 Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section. No committee of the convention, including the executive  
17 committee, shall exceed seventeen members and the rules shall so provide. No committee  
18 of the convention may establish subcommittees, and the rules shall so provide.

19 (F) After completing organizational activities, the convention shall meet in  
20 committees, each committee meeting at least once a month until it completes its duties as  
21 provided in this Act. Each committee that meets shall provide a report of its activities to the  
22 full convention no later than Wednesday, September 29, 2027.

23 (G) The full convention shall convene beginning Thursday, September 30, 2027, to  
24 consider as a committee of the whole the report of each committee. The chairman and vice  
25 chairman of the convention shall serve as chairman and vice chairman of the committee of  
26 the whole. The convention shall complete its work no later than Friday, October 29, 2027.

27 Section 7. Legal advisor; staff; budget; committees. (A)(1) The attorney general  
28 or a designee of the attorney general shall be the legal advisor to the convention.

29 (2) Staff support for the convention shall be provided by the staffs of the House of  
30 Representatives, the Senate, the legislative fiscal office, the legislative auditor's office, and

1 other legislative agencies. In addition, as soon as possible after the members of the  
2 executive committee are selected, the executive committee shall request the provision of  
3 professional, research, technical, and clerical employees from any public or private sources  
4 the committee deems necessary to accomplish the work of the convention.

5 (B) The staff of the constitutional convention may include but shall not be limited  
6 to the following who shall not be delegates to the convention or registered as a legislative  
7 or executive branch lobbyist with the Louisiana Board of Ethics on or after Thursday,  
8 January 1, 2026, as provided in Chapter 1 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
9 1950 or in Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950:

10 (1) A director of research who shall possess such qualifications as determined by the  
11 executive committee.

12 (2) Research assistants in such number and possessing such qualifications as  
13 determined by the executive committee.

14 (3) Personnel from the faculty of in-state law schools as requested by the executive  
15 committee.

16 (4) Such other staff as the executive committee deems necessary.

17 (C) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a staff member provided  
18 to the convention is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, the staff member may  
19 continue to be paid and receive the usual compensation and benefits from his employer while  
20 the staff member is engaged in the work of the committee or the convention.

21 (D) As soon as possible after the members of the executive committee are elected,  
22 the executive committee shall prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention  
23 based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds of the state  
24 general fund available for expenditure.

25 (E) The executive committee shall appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and the  
26 membership of each committee provided for in Section 6(E) of this Act.

27 (F) Unless the legislature is in session, the House chamber, the Senate chamber, and  
28 the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol shall be available for use by the  
29 convention and its committees. If the facilities at the state capitol are not available or are  
30 not sufficient for use by the convention or its committees, the convention or its committees



1 shall meet at a suitable location in the capital city, which location shall be determined by the  
2 chairman of the convention, and public notice of the location shall be given and posted at  
3 suitable locations in the state capitol. The convention shall have full authority to use the  
4 facilities and services of any board, commission, department, or agency of the state or of any  
5 political subdivision of the state, and all such entities shall cooperate with the convention to  
6 the fullest extent in furnishing services, facilities, and employees upon request. In addition,  
7 the convention may use the facilities and services of other persons and organizations.

8       Section 8. Compensation of delegates. The delegates to the convention shall receive  
9 the same per diem and travel allowances provided for members of the legislature pursuant  
10 to R.S. 24:31 and 31.1 for their attendance at the convention or any committee thereof. No  
11 delegate shall receive a per diem or travel allowance for any day for which the delegate also  
12 received a per diem or travel allowance for his duties for other public service. No delegate  
13 may accept any compensation from any other source for work performed as a delegate to the  
14 convention. However, if a delegate is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, should the  
15 delegate's employer choose to continue to pay the usual compensation while the delegate is  
16 engaged in the work of the convention, such delegate may accept that compensation,  
17 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.

18       Section 9. Appropriation; use of funds. (A) Any appropriation for the expenses of  
19 the convention shall be used solely to defray the necessary expenses of the constitutional  
20 convention for which provision is made in this Act, including the payment for supplies,  
21 materials, equipment, printing, and reproduction of materials, and all other necessary  
22 expenses incurred in connection with the convention and its work.

23       (B) Any funds appropriated for the convention shall be withdrawn from the state  
24 treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the chairman of the convention, and all  
25 checks for the disbursement of funds shall be signed by the chairman and the vice chairman  
26 of the convention or by the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as shall be  
27 designated by the convention.

28       (C) Expenses of the convention shall not be paid for by and the convention shall not  
29 accept any grants, moneys, aid, facilities, or services from private sources.

1 (D) The convention shall not be deemed to be a budget unit of the state and therefore  
2 shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of Title 39 of the Louisiana  
3 Revised Statutes of 1950. The financial books and records of the convention, however, shall  
4 be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

5 Section 10. Submission of proposed constitution; election. (A) Upon completion  
6 of its work, and not later than Friday, October 29, 2027, and subject to the limitations  
7 provided in Section 4 of this Act, the convention shall submit a proposed draft of a new  
8 constitution for the state to the governor. The constitution as drafted by the convention shall  
9 be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection. Within ten days after submission of the  
10 proposed draft to the governor, he shall by proclamation call an election to be held at the  
11 same time as the 2027 gubernatorial general election to be held on Saturday, November 20,  
12 2027, for the purpose of submitting the proposed draft to the people for adoption or  
13 rejection.

14 (B) The election on Saturday, November 20, 2027, shall be held and the results shall  
15 be promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. All electors duly qualified  
16 to vote in the state at the time of the election shall be entitled to vote without regard to party  
17 affiliation on the proposition for or against adoption of the revision of the constitution  
18 proposed by the convention. The costs of the election shall be paid as provided in the  
19 Louisiana Election Code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the  
20 ballot.

21 (C)(1) The convention shall submit to the electors of the state the proposal of  
22 acceptance or rejection of the constitution and may direct the proper election officials to take  
23 the necessary steps to effectuate such determination of the convention in presenting the  
24 proposed constitution to the electors. The ballot language shall be as follows:

25 "Do you support the adoption of the proposed 2028 Constitution?

26 (Vote for one)

27 FOR adoption of the proposed 2028 Constitution. \_\_\_\_

28 AGAINST adoption of the proposed 2028 Constitution. \_\_\_\_"

29 (2) Adoption of the constitution shall require the favorable vote of a majority of the  
30 electors voting on the proposition.

1 (D) Upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state, if the  
2 constitution is ratified and adopted by the people in the election for which provision is made  
3 in this Section, the governor shall proclaim the constitution to be the Constitution of  
4 Louisiana. The constitution shall become effective at midnight on Friday, December 31,  
5 2027, except as otherwise provided in the constitution adopted.

6 Section 11. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
8 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
10 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 4 Original

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

**Abstract:** Calls a constitutional convention to convene at noon on Dec. 29, 2026. Provides the convention is composed of 93 delegates. Requires the convention to complete a new constitution by Oct. 29, 2027. Provides for the proposed constitution to be presented to the electors of the state at the gubernatorial general election on Nov. 20, 2027.

#### **Constitutional Convention**

Proposed law provides for a constitutional convention as follows:

- (1) Calls the convention to convene at noon on Dec. 29, 2026, to frame a new constitution for the state.
- (2) Provides for 93 delegates as follows: 83 elected delegates and 10 delegates appointed by the governor.
- (3) Excepts service of delegates and staff of the convention from dual employment/dual officeholding laws. Delegates and staff are subject to the La. Code of Ethics. Further, delegates and staff are considered public officers, public officials, public employees, or persons in a position of public authority for purposes of the application of the provisions of the La. criminal code. Provides that service of a judge as a delegate is not grounds for recusal. Attorney delegates and staff are entitled to continuance of cases in which they are counsel of record while attending sessions and committee meetings. Prohibits acceptance or deposit of campaign contributions and fundraisers by delegates during the time of the convention. Provides that records of the convention and delegates are subject to the Public Records Law to the same extent and limitations applicable to the legislature and legislators.

- (4) Provides for filling of vacancies through appointment. A vacancy in an elected office shall be filled by a person from the same district appointed by the governor. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law provides for the qualification and election of delegates at the fall 2026 elections. Provides that two delegates shall be elected from each Senate district. Provides that one delegate shall be elected from each Public Service Commission district.

Proposed law grants to the convention the authority to frame a new state constitution. Provides that the proposed constitution shall provide that provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 dedicated to that purpose. The proposed constitution shall provide that such provisions made statutory and contained in the dedicated statutory title, which shall be established as Title 57, may only be changed by law adopted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed law provides that any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of proposed law, to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any action of the convention with proposed law shall be brought in the 19th Judicial District Court subject to direct appeal to the supreme court. The matter shall be tried by preference over other matters, and the court shall render a decision as soon as practicable. If the action is to determine the validity or conformity of an action of the convention, such action shall be brought within 15 days of the action of the convention.

Proposed law provides for convention organization as follows:

- (1) Includes provisions for oath for delegates; election of chairman, vice chairman, and chief clerical officer; and election of an executive committee which shall include the chairman and vice chairman; adoption of rules; and other actions necessary to organize.
- (2) Provides for the establishment of 15 committees, only: 14 committees, each dedicated to a single Article of the Constitution of La. of 1974, and one executive committee. Limits committee membership to 17 members. Provides for the appointment of members to the 14 committees. Provides for the election of the executive committee. Prohibits establishing subcommittees.
- (3) Provides for House and Senate staff designated by the presiding officers of the legislature, prior to the convention, to prepare rules of procedure for adoption by the convention, based on the 1973 convention rules, such rules to be subject to change and adoption by the convention. Provides that action by the convention requires a favorable vote of a majority of the convention. Prohibits proxy voting.

Proposed law provides for the initial meeting of the convention on noon Dec. 29, 2026. Provides that after organizational activities are completed, the convention shall meet in committees and each committee shall provide a report of its activities to the full convention no later than Sept. 29, 2027. Requires the full convention to convene beginning Sept. 30, 2027, to consider the report of each committee as a committee of the whole. The chairman and vice chairman of the convention shall serve as the chairman and vice chairman of the committee of the whole. The convention shall complete its work no later than Oct. 29, 2027.

Proposed law provides for convention staff, budget, committees, meeting site, and other assistance as follows:

- (1) Requires the executive committee to request the provision of professional, research, technical, and clerical staff from public or private sources as deemed necessary.

- (2) Provides that the attorney general or designee of the attorney general shall serve as legal advisor to the convention and that convention staff may include but not be limited to a research director, research assistants, personnel from the faculty of in-state law schools as requested by the executive committee, and such other staff as deemed necessary by the executive committee. Allows the staff of the convention to continue to receive compensation from the staff person's regular bona fide employment. Prohibits delegates and lobbyists from serving as convention staff.
- (3) Requires the executive committee to prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention, based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds available for expenditure.
- (4) Provides that the executive committee of the convention appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and membership of each committee of the convention.
- (5) Requires that the House and Senate Chambers and the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol be available for convention use, unless the legislature is in session. Authorizes the convention to meet elsewhere in Baton Rouge as determined by the chairman when state capitol facilities are not available or are insufficient.
- (6) Authorizes convention use of facilities and services of state departments and agencies and of political subdivisions and requires their cooperation in furnishing services, facilities, and employees.

Proposed law provides for compensation of delegates and payment of convention expenses as follows:

- (1) Delegates to the convention shall receive the same per diem and travel allowances provided for members of the legislature pursuant to present law (R.S. 24:31 and 31.1). Prohibits a delegate from accepting any compensation from any other source for work performed as a delegate to the convention, but allows a delegate to continue to receive compensation for the delegate's regular bona fide employment while a delegate.
- (2) Requires that the legislature make adequate appropriations to the convention for the payment of the necessary expenses of the convention such as supplies, materials, equipment, and printing for so long as the convention remains in existence and for so long thereafter as is necessary to pay the expenses of the convention. Prohibits use of funds from private sources to pay the expenses of the convention. Provides that the convention is not a state budget unit. Specifies that the convention is subject to audit by the legislative auditor. Authorizes the presiding officers to utilize funds appropriated to the legislature to defray expenses of the convention.
- (3) Requires that funds appropriated be withdrawn from the state treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the convention chairman and that checks be signed by the chairman and vice chairman, or the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as designated by the convention.

#### **Submission to Voters/Effectiveness**

Proposed law requires the convention, upon completion of its work to submit to the governor the proposed constitution by Oct. 29, 2027. Provides that the constitution proposed for submission shall be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection at a special election. Requires the governor to call the election within 10 days after the draft is submitted, to be held at the same time as the 2027 gubernatorial general election on Nov. 20, 2027. Provides for the election to be held and the results thereof promulgated in accordance with the La. Election Code and for costs to be paid as provided in the election code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot. Provides for the ballot

language. Voters are allowed to vote without regard to party affiliation. Requires a majority vote to approve the constitution.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be severable and provides that if any provision is deemed null and void and of no effect by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction after adoption by the convention but prior to its submission to the electors, then the provision deemed null and void shall be removed from the proposed revision of the constitution by the secretary of state and the remainder of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be submitted to the electors in accordance proposed law. Further provides that if any provision of the revision of the constitution, or the application thereof, is deemed invalid after ratification by the electors, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of the revision which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application.

Proposed law requires, upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state if the constitution is ratified and adopted by the people, that the governor proclaim the constitution as adopted, to be the Constitution of La. Provides that the constitution shall become effective at midnight on Dec. 31, 2027, except as otherwise provided in the constitution.

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

**Timetable of Events**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
Qualification period for delegate candidates	7/29/26-7/31/26
Primary election of delegates	11/3/2026
General election of delegates	12/12/2026
Convention to convene	12/29/2026 (noon)
Convention committees to submit reports to the full convention no later than	9/29/2027
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor no later than	10/29/2027
Election for submission of proposed constitution	11/20/2027 (Gubernatorial general)
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/27 (midnight)