

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 257

BY REPRESENTATIVE VENTRELLA

LOCAL OFFFL/POLICE CHIEFS: Provides relative to the powers and duties of the police chief of the city of Central

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:423.31, relative to the city of Central; to provide relative to the police chief
3 of the city; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the police chief; to
4 authorize the police chief to take certain actions with respect to police personnel; to
5 provide relative to the approval of the mayor and the city's governing authority with
6 respect to such actions; 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 Section 1. R.S. 33:423.31 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §423.31. City of Central; police chief; police personnel

13 Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 33:423, the chief of police of the city
14 of Central may appoint, promote, discipline, and dismiss police personnel without
15 the approval of the mayor or the governing authority of the city.

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)]

HB 257 Original

2026 Regular Session

Ventrella

Abstract: Authorizes the police chief of the city of Central to take certain actions with respect to police personnel without the approval of the mayor or the city's governing authority.

Present law, relative to Lawrason Act municipalities, generally provides that the elected police chief makes recommendations to the mayor and board of alderman regarding the appointment, promotion, discipline, and dismissal of police personnel. Provides that the elected chief may immediately effect disciplinary action and dismiss police personnel subject to the approval of the governing authority of the municipality. Additionally authorizes the elected police chief to make a provisional appointment to immediately fill any vacancy in the police department subject to the approval of the mayor. Provides that the provisional appointment remains in effect unless rejected by the governing authority of the municipality. Provides exceptions for certain municipalities.

Proposed law retains present law and provides an additional exception for the city of Central. Authorizes the police chief to appoint, promote, discipline, and dismiss police personnel without the approval of the mayor or the governing authority of the city.

(Adds R.S. 33:423.31)