
DIGEST

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HB 431 Original

2026 Regular Session

Carlson

Abstract: Requires mayors to complete additional training and continuing education annually.

Present law authorizes mayors and members of the governing authorities of municipalities with a population of 15,000 persons or less to participate in workshops and other training courses offered by associations or groups that provide training to local government officials.

Present law authorizes the agencies, associations, or groups to work jointly to provide workshops, training courses, and other resources to the elected officials. Authorizes the agencies, associations, or groups to offer incentives such as continuing education credits or certificates for specialization.

Proposed law requires all mayors to complete not less than 16 hours of additional training and continuing education annually. Provides that all mayors shall receive credit towards proposed law requirement through completion of any training required by present law, including ethics training, sexual harassment prevention training, cybersecurity training, campaign finance training, procurement and letting of public contracts training, and emergency preparedness training.

Proposed law requires the additional training and continuing education courses to be established by the La. Municipal Association within the following categories of municipal governance:

- (1) The Lawrason Act and municipal authority.
- (2) The roles and responsibilities of mayors and municipal councils.
- (3) Public budgeting, finance, audits, and procurement laws.
- (4) Ethics and conflicts of interest.
- (5) Human resources, personnel management, and civil service.
- (6) Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.
- (7) Public safety, emergency preparedness, and police and fire operations.
- (8) Utility operations and infrastructure management.
- (9) Planning, zoning, annexation, and land use.

- (10) Economic development and community engagement.
- (11) Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure.
- (12) Municipal best practices and compliance.
- (13) Tax codes, revenue authority, and financial administration.

Proposed law requires the mayors to attest to their compliance with proposed law training requirements by completing a form provided by the legislative auditor. Provides that each mayor's record of compliance shall be included with and made part of the respective municipality's submission of its annual financial statements to the legislative auditor, as required by present law (R.S. 24:513).

Proposed law requires the licensed certified public accountant engaged to perform the review or audit of the municipality to include verification of the mayor's compliance with the training required by proposed law.

Proposed law requires the legislative auditor to maintain on his website a public list, by municipality, or mayors who are compliant and who are non-compliant with the training requirements provided by proposed law.

Proposed law provides an exception to proposed law training requirements for any person who is temporarily appointed to the office of mayor for less than one year.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 33:1420.31)