

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 832

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

LOCAL OFFL/POLICE CHIEFS: Provides relative to the position of police chief for the city of Baton Rouge

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:2481.8, relative to the city of Baton Rouge; to provide relative to the  
3 position of police chief; to provide relative to the term of the police chief; to provide  
4 relative to the evaluation of the police chief; to provide relative to the powers and  
5 duties of the mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton  
6 Rouge, with respect to the police chief; 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. 33:2481.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §2481.8. Chief of police; city of Baton Rouge; evaluation

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief of  
14 police of the city of Baton Rouge shall be evaluated three years from the date of his  
15 initial appointment by the mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East  
16 Baton Rouge. Thereafter, the chief of police shall be evaluated every year by the  
17 mayor-president. After each evaluation by the mayor-president, the mayor-president  
18 may reconfirm the chief of police for another one-year period or may, at his  
19 discretion, demote the chief of police to his former class of position. The demotion

- 1           shall not constitute corrective or disciplinary action, and the classified employee  
2           shall not have appeal rights in regards to such action.

## 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 832 Original

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Freiberg

**Abstract:** Requires that the police chief of the city of Baton Rouge be evaluated by the mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge after the initial three years of service and each year thereafter.

Present constitution creates a fire and police civil service system applicable to municipalities of over 13,000 in population and parishes and fire protection districts. Provides that the system is subject to Art. XIV, §15.1 of the 1921 Constitution made statutory by the 1974 Constitution. Present law creates and provides for two fire and police civil service systems: (1) one applicable to any municipality which operates paid police and fire departments and which has a population of not fewer than 13,000 persons; and (2) one applicable to any parish, fire protection district, or municipality with a population of fewer than 13,000, but not fewer than 7,000 persons.

Proposed law retains present constitution and present law.

Present law, relative to both systems, provides that a municipal fire and police civil service board is created in the municipal, parish, and fire protection government. Requires the board to establish and maintain employment lists containing the names of persons eligible for appointment to various classes of positions in the classified service. Requires that names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test be placed on the promotion employment list for the tested class, from highest to lowest, according to departmental seniority.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law additionally requires that the police chief of the city of Baton Rouge be evaluated three years from the date of his initial appointment by the mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge. Further requires that the police chief be evaluated every year thereafter by the mayor-president. Authorizes the mayor-president to reconfirm the police chief for another one-year period or, at his discretion, demote the police chief to his former class of position. Provides that the demotion shall not constitute corrective or disciplinary action, and the classified employee shall not have appeal rights in regards to such action.

(Adds R.S. 33:2481.8)