
DIGEST

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HB 867 Original

2026 Regular Session

LaCombe

Abstract: Authorizes the town of Fordoche to make the office of police chief appointive.

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. Generally provides for election, at large, of the police chief. Provides for appointment of a police chief in certain specified municipalities.

Present law alternatively provides that the office of police chief shall be filled by mayoral appointment with approval of the board of aldermen if a majority of the municipal electors approve the change. Provides for an election on the question only upon a petition directed to the board of aldermen and signed by at least 25% of such electors. Provides that after an election has been called and held for that purpose, no further election on the same question may be held for at least four years.

Present law additionally provides a procedure for the election or appointment of a marshal who is the chief of police in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less. Provides that a majority of the electors of such a municipality, at an election held for that purpose, may authorize the mayor, with the approval of the governing authority to appoint the chief of police. Further provides that the electors may provide that the chief of police be elected. The question of the appointment or election of the marshal shall be made only upon the adoption of an ordinance by a two-thirds vote of the governing authority. Provides that after an election has been called and held for that purpose, no further election on the same question may be held for at least four years.

Proposed law provides an exception for the police chief in the town of Fordoche. Provides that such police chief shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen by majority vote. Provides for initial appointment upon expiration of the current term if there is an elected chief in office on the effective date of proposed law unless the office is vacant or filled by an officer temporarily appointed. Provides that the police chief's term shall be concurrent with that of the mayor and aldermen.

Proposed law requires the board of aldermen, upon recommendation of the mayor, to establish the salary of the office and to establish the duties, qualifications, and responsibilities of the office. Provides that the chief shall report directly to the mayor.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(38))