

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 376

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

CIVIL SERVICE/FIRE & POL: Provides relative to provisional appointments in the classified service

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2496(1)(a)(iii) and 2556(1)(a)(iii), relative to the fire and
3 police civil service; to provide relative to provisional appointments in the fire and
4 police civil service for municipalities, parishes, and fire protection districts; to
5 provide for the maximum length of such appointments; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 33:2496(1)(a)(iii) and 2556(1)(a)(iii) are hereby amended and
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 §2496. Temporary appointments

11 Temporary appointments may be made to positions in the classified service
12 without the appointees acquiring any permanent status therein as follows:

13 (1)(a)

14 * * *

15 (iii) When a vacancy is to be filled in the classes of entrance firefighter,
16 entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records
17 clerk, and for the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio,
18 alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service is the primary duty,
19 the appointing authority may make a provisional appointment of any person
20 considered qualified. A provisional appointment shall not exceed ~~sixty~~ ninety days.

1 Successive appointments in the classes of entrance firefighter, entrance police
2 officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and for the
3 entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal
4 systems for the respective fire or police service is the primary duty shall be
5 prohibited.

6 * * *

7 §2556. Temporary appointments

8 Temporary appointments may be made to positions in the classified service
9 without the appointees acquiring any permanent status therein as follows:

10 (1)(a)

11 * * *

12 (iii) When a vacancy is to be filled in the classes of entrance firefighter,
13 entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records
14 clerk, and for the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio,
15 alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service is the primary duty,
16 the appointing authority may make a provisional appointment of any person
17 considered qualified. A provisional appointment shall not exceed ~~sixty~~ ninety days.
18 Successive appointments in the classes of entrance firefighter, entrance police
19 officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and for the
20 entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal
21 systems for the respective fire or police service is the primary duty shall be
22 prohibited.

23 * * *

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 376 Engrossed 2026 Regular Session Kerner

Abstract: Relative to provisional appointments in the fire and police civil service, changes the maximum term of such appointments from 60 to 90 days.

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 temporary appointments, authorizes the appointing authority to make a provisional appointment of any person considered qualified when a vacancy is to be filled in a position of a class for which the board is unable to certify names of persons eligible for regular and permanent, or substitute, appointment. Provides that whenever practicable, the appointment should be made by the provisional promotion of an employee of a lower class. Provides that a provisional appointment shall not continue for more than three months. Excludes vacancies in the positions of entrance firefighter, entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service in the primary duty.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law, relative to temporary appointments for vacancies in the positions of entrance firefighter, entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service in the primary duty, authorizes the appointing authority to make provisional appointment of any person considered qualified. Provides that a provisional appointment shall not exceed 60 days. Provides that successive appointments in the classes of entrance firefighter, entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service in the primary duty shall be prohibited.

Proposed law increases the maximum period of a provisional appointment from 60 to 90 days. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 33:2496(1)(a)(iii) and 2556(1)(a)(iii))