

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVES FIRMENT, EDMONSTON, GALLE, HEBERT, MACK,  
ORGERON, OWEN, VENTRELLA, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATOR CARTER

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Requires peace officers to be citizens of the United States

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:2402(5) and 2404.4, relative to the qualification of peace officers in  
3 Louisiana; to provide for definitions; to provide that peace officers shall be United  
4 States citizens; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:2402(5) and 2404.4 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §2402. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter:

9 \* \* \*

10 (5) "United States citizen" shall have the same meaning as "United States  
11 citizen" in 42 U.S.C. 9102(18).

12 \* \* \*

13 §2404.4. Peace officers; United States citizens

14 In addition to all training requirements and qualifications for employment  
15 provided in this Chapter and any other provision of law, in order to be certified as  
16 a law enforcement peace officer in Louisiana, the person shall be a United States  
17 citizen.

18 Section 2. The provisions of this Act do not apply to a peace officer who is currently  
19 employed and who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States as  
20 described in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a), provided that the peace officer becomes a United States  
21 citizen no later than August 1, 2031.

---

**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 39 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Firmment

**Abstract:** Requires peace officers to be U.S. citizens.

Present law provides for qualifications, requirements, and training requirements for all peace officers in the state of La.

Present federal law defines "United States citizen" as any individual who is a citizen of the U.S. by law, birth, or naturalization.

Proposed law requires any person seeking to be a peace officer in the state of La. to be a U.S. citizen as defined in federal law.

Proposed law excludes current peace officers who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the U.S. from proposed law if such peace officers become citizens no later than Aug. 1, 2031.

(Adds R.S. 40:2402(5) and 2404.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Exclude current peace officers from the requirement to be current U.S. citizens if they are lawful permanent residents of the U.S. who become citizens no later than Aug. 1, 2031.