

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 288 (HB 136)

2026 Regular Session

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Existing 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. Existing 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.

Existing law, relative to the system applicable to municipalities with a population of fewer than 13,000, but not fewer than 7,000, provides that "departmental seniority" refers to the period of continuous employment in the department. Defines "promotional seniority" to mean the total cumulative employment in a class of positions of the next lower class from which a promotion is to be made. Specifies further relative to employment counted toward seniority in the next lower class.

Existing law, relative to both systems, provides that a municipal fire and police civil service board is created in the municipal, parish, and fire protection district 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.

Existing law requires that vacant positions be filled by reinstatement or reemployment. If the position cannot be filled in this manner, then the position must be filled by the person on the promotion list with the greatest departmental seniority. Existing law provides exceptions for certain police departments.

New law provides an additional exception applicable to the city of Harahan. Requires the appointing authority to select and appoint to any vacancy to be filled a person certified to him as a person who is among the three highest in departmental seniority.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 33:2554(C)(6))