

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 679 (HB 867)

2026 Regular Session

LaCombe

Existing 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 police chief, 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.

Existing 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 voting on the question 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 the qualified municipal 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.

Existing law additionally provides a procedure for the election or appointment of a marshal who is the police chief 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 police chief. Further provides that the electors may provide that the police chief be elected. The election on the question of the appointment or election of the marshal shall be held 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.

New law provides an exception for the police chief in the town of Fordoche. Provides that the 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 Aug. 1, 2026, 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.

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

Effective August 1, 2026.

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