
DIGEST

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Honore

HB No. 1178

Abstract: Provides for the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, including provisions for membership and redistricting.

Present law provides for a previous redistricting of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board. (Note: the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board currently has 11 members elected from single-member districts).

Proposed law provides that, excluding the Baker municipal school system, the Zachary Community School Board, and the Central Community School Board, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall be comprised of seven members. Provides that, of the seven members, one member shall be elected at large by the qualified electors of the entire East Baton Rouge Parish school district and six members shall be elected by the qualified electors of each of six single-member districts. Provides that these provisions shall be effective for the limited purpose of qualification and election of school board members in 2014, and shall become effective for all purposes on Jan. 1, 2015. Further provides that until a single-member district plan is developed and approved in accordance with proposed law below, the board shall continue to be comprised of 11 members elected from single-member districts.

Present law provides that the members of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall be elected from single-member districts. Provides for the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board to develop a plan for single-member school board districts. Requires that such districts be drawn with as equal population as possible using population figures from the U.S. census.

Proposed law provides instead that, at the school board election in 2014, one member of the board shall be elected at large by the qualified electors of the entire East Baton Rouge Parish School Board district and that the remaining members shall be elected by the qualified electors of six single-member districts. Requires the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, before Aug. 1, 2014, to develop a plan to divide the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board district into six single-member districts from each of which one member of the board shall be elected. Provides that districts be drawn with as equal population as possible, utilizing population figures from the 2010 U.S. census.

Present law, relative to the prior apportionment plan or any future alteration, change, or rearrangement of school board election districts, requires the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board to order a public hearing on the proposed plan, alteration, change, or rearrangement and publish a notice of the hearing at least 20 days prior to the hearing, giving the time and place

thereof, a general summary and map of the proposed plan, and the times and places where copies of the proposed plan are available for public inspection.

Proposed law retains present law making it applicable to the plan required by proposed law. Changes the time for publication of notice to at least 10, rather than at least 20 days, before the hearing.

Present law provides procedures for approval of an earlier school board redistricting plan by the members of the East Baton Rouge Parish legislative delegation. Provided that, if the delegation did not approve the plan, the legislature would develop and enact a plan. Proposed law removes these provisions.

Present law requires, when a parish contains a municipality the population of which is more than one-half that of the entire parish, that the municipality have representation on the parish school board proportionate to its population. Proposed law excepts the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board from this requirement.

Proposed law retains present law that provides that East Baton Rouge Parish School Board members shall continue in office until the expiration of the term for which elected and until their successors are qualified and take office and that board members serve four-year terms.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:57, 58, and 58.2(A), (B), and (C))