HLS 17RS-528 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 164

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

POLICE/MUNICIPAL: Provides for the abolition of the office of police chief and the police department for the town of Stonewall

AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:381(C)(34), relative to the town of Stonewall and DeSoto Parish; to 3 provide for the abolition of the office of police chief and the police department in the 4 town of Stonewall; to authorize the town to contract with other law enforcement 5 entities in the parish for law enforcement services; and to provide for related matters. Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published 6 7 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of 8 Louisiana. 9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 10 Section 1. R.S. 33:381(C)(34) is hereby enacted to read as follows: 11 §381. Municipal officers 12 C. 13 14 15 (34)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the board of aldermen of the town of Stonewall may, upon recommendation of the mayor, 16 17 abolish the office of chief of police of the town. No such action by the board shall be effective until the end of the term of the police chief in office at the time of that 18 19 action or when a vacancy occurs in the office, whichever occurs first; however, if at

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1 the time of that action the office is filled by an officer temporarily appointed, the 2 abolition of the office shall become effective as provided by ordinance. 3 (b) If the office of chief of police is abolished and the municipal police 4 department is abolished pursuant to R.S. 33:362(C), the mayor and board of 5 aldermen may contract with or enter into any cooperative endeavor with any law 6 enforcement entity or officer within DeSoto Parish for police services for the town. 7 8 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not 9 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If 10 11 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become 12 effective on the day following such approval.

## 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 164 Original

2017 Regular Session

Bagley

**Abstract:** Provides for the abolition of the Stonewall police chief and authorizes the municipality to contract for law enforcement services.

<u>Present law</u> provides that the officers of every municipality shall be a mayor, aldermen, a chief of police, a tax collector, and a clerk.

<u>Present law</u> provides for at-large election of the mayor and police chief in all municipalities. Further provides for exceptions with respect to the chief of police in certain municipalities.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 33:362(C)) provides that any department of a municipality, other than the police department in a municipality with an elected chief of police, shall be created, abolished, merged, or consolidated by the board of aldermen, upon the written recommendation of the mayor.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides an exception for the office of the chief of police in the town of Stonewall. Provides that the board of aldermen may, upon the recommendation of the mayor, abolish the office of chief of police. Provides that the office cannot be abolished until the end of the term of the chief of police in office at the time of that action or when a vacancy occurs in the office, whichever occurs first; however, if at the time of that action the office is filled by an officer temporarily appointed, the abolition of the office will become effective as provided by ordinance.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that, if the office of chief of police and the police department are abolished pursuant to <u>proposed law</u> and <u>present law</u>, the mayor and board of aldermen may contract with any law enforcement entity or officer within DeSoto Parish for police services.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(34))