

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 643

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

HOUSING/AUTHORITIES: Provides relative to the membership of the Housing Authority of New Orleans

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:531(B), relative to the House Authority of New Orleans; to
3 provide relative to the appointment of commissioners to the authority; and to provide
4 for related matters.

5 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
6 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
7 Louisiana.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 40:531(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §531. Appointment of commissioners to local housing authority

11 * * *

12 B.(1) In the city of New Orleans, the governing authority of the housing
13 authority shall consist of ~~nine~~ seven commissioners, at least two of whom shall be
14 tenants of the housing authority, referred to in this Chapter as "tenant
15 commissioners", and one of whom shall be appointed as provided in Subparagraph
16 (2)(b) of this Subsection, referred to in this Chapter as a "landlord commissioner".

17 (2)(a) ~~Eight~~ Four commissioners, excluding the landlord commissioner, shall
18 be appointed by the mayor of the city of New Orleans. Two commissioners shall be
19 appointed by the at-large members of the New Orleans City Council. The two tenant
20 commissioners shall be chosen from a list of names submitted to the mayor by the

1 Citywide Tenants Council, Inc., of the housing authority. The number of names
2 submitted shall be three for each vacancy to be filled by a tenant commissioner.

3 (b) The one landlord commissioner shall be appointed by the mayor from a
4 list of three nominees submitted by the Landlords Advisory Committee. No person
5 who has or who is seeking a business or financial relationship with the housing
6 authority or who otherwise has a conflict pursuant to the Code of Governmental
7 Ethics regarding service on the housing authority shall be eligible to be appointed as
8 a landlord commissioner. The committee shall meet within sixty days after any
9 mayoral election is concluded or any vacancy in the landlord commissioner position
10 and shall nominate the list of landlord commissioners as provided in this Subsection
11 upon a majority vote of the members of the committee present and voting. The
12 committee shall give notice of the purpose, time, and place of such a meeting
13 through the landlord portal on the official website of the housing authority or by
14 publication in the official journal of the city of New Orleans at least seven days prior
15 to the date set for the hearing.

16 (3) Each appointee is subject to confirmation by the New Orleans City
17 Council.

18 (4) The executive director of the housing authority shall be hired upon
19 approval of the New Orleans City Council.

20 * * *

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 643 Engrossed

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Hughes

Abstract: Provides for changes to the appointment of commissioners to the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

Present law (R.S. 40:531) authorizes the governing body of any municipality or parish to determine by resolution that it is expedient to establish a local housing authority when there exists a shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling accommodations in such parish or municipality. Provides that when such determination is made, the chief elected official of the municipality or parish, or if no such official exists then the governing body itself shall

appoint five persons to constitute the housing authority's governing body. Provides that the members of the governing body are called commissioners.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 40:531) provides for exceptions relative to the number of commissioners for certain housing authorities. Provides that the Housing Authority of New Orleans shall consist of nine commissioners appointed by the mayor. Requires that at least two commissioners be tenants of the housing authority who are chosen from a list of three names submitted by the Citywide Tenants Council, Inc., and who are referred to as "tenant commissioners". Provides for the appointment of one commissioner as a "landlord commissioner" from a list of three nominees submitted by the Landlords Advisory Committee. Requires that at least one of the tenant commissioners be a participant in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Proposed law decreases the number of commissioners from nine to seven. Requires that five commissioners are appointed by the mayor of New Orleans, two of whom must be tenants, and one of whom is a landlord, and that two commissioners are appointed by the at-large members of the New Orleans City Council. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires each appointment to the Housing Authority of New Orleans to be confirmed by the city council. Requires the council to approve the hiring of the executive director of the authority.

(Amends R.S. 40:531(B))