

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 8

BY SENATOR MORRIS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CIVIL SERVICE. Constitutional amendment to provide for persons in the unclassified service and for appointment of persons on the State Civil Service Commission. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article X, Section 2(B) and Section 3(B) and (C) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to state and city civil service; to authorize additional positions in the unclassified service which may be revoked by rules adopted by a commission; to provide for removal of positions from the classified state civil service as may be provided by law; to provide for appointment and membership of the state civil service commission; to provide for staggered terms of commission members; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article X, Section 2(B) and Section 3(B) and (C) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§2. Classified and Unclassified Service

Section 2.(A)

* * *

(B) Unclassified Service. The unclassified service shall include the following

1 officers and employees in the state and city civil service:

- 2 (1) elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices;
- 3 (2) the heads of each principal executive department appointed by the
- 4 governor, the mayor, or the governing authority of a city;
- 5 (3) city attorneys;
- 6 (4) registrars of voters;
- 7 (5) members of state and city boards, authorities, and commissions;
- 8 (6) one private secretary to the president of each college or university;
- 9 (7) one person holding a confidential position and one principal assistant or
- 10 deputy to any officer, board, commission, or authority mentioned in (1), (2), (4), or
- 11 (5) above, except civil service departments;
- 12 (8) members of the military or naval forces;
- 13 (9) teaching and professional staffs, and administrative officers of schools,
- 14 colleges, and universities of the state, and bona fide students of those institutions
- 15 employed by any state, parochial, or municipal agency;
- 16 (10) employees, deputies, and officers of the legislature and of the offices of
- 17 the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, each mayor and city attorney,
- 18 of police juries, school boards, assessors, and of all offices provided for in Article
- 19 V of this constitution except the offices of clerk of the municipal and traffic courts
- 20 in New Orleans;
- 21 (11) commissioners of elections, watchers, and custodians and deputy
- 22 custodians of voting machines;
- 23 (12) railroad employees whose working conditions and retirement benefits
- 24 are regulated by federal agencies in accordance with federal law; and
- 25 (13) the director, deputy director, and all employees of the Governor's Office
- 26 of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

27 Additional positions may be added to the unclassified service and those

28 positions may be revoked by rules adopted by a commission, **or positions may**

29 **otherwise be removed from the classified state civil service as provided by law.**

1 §3. State Civil Service Commission

2 Section 3.(A) * * *

3 (B)(1) Appointment. The members shall be appointed by the governor, with
4 consent of the Senate, as hereinafter provided, for overlapping terms of ~~six~~ **four**
5 years.6 (2) No person ~~who has served~~ **shall serve** as a member of the commission for
7 more than two ~~and one-half~~ **full** terms ~~in three consecutive terms shall be appointed~~
8 ~~to the commission for the succeeding term. This Subparagraph shall not apply to any~~
9 ~~person appointed to the commission prior to the effective date of this Subparagraph,~~
10 ~~except that it shall apply to any term of service of any such person that begins after~~
11 ~~such date.~~12 (C)**(1)** Nominations. The presidents of Centenary College at Shreveport,
13 Dillard University at New Orleans, Louisiana College at Pineville, Loyola University
14 at New Orleans, Tulane University of Louisiana at New Orleans, and Xavier
15 University at New Orleans, after giving consideration to representation of all groups,
16 each shall **separately** nominate **up to** three persons **for the purpose of filling**
17 **vacancies**. The governor shall appoint ~~one member~~ **three members** of the
18 commission from the ~~three persons nominated by each president~~ **the presidents**
19 **prior to his appointment of three members to the commission**. One member of
20 the commission shall be elected by the classified employees of the state from their
21 number as provided by law. A vacancy for any cause shall be filled by appointment
22 or election in accordance with the procedure or law governing the appointment or
23 election, ~~and from the same source~~. Within thirty days after a vacancy **of a member**
24 **appointed from the list of nominees submitted by the presidents** occurs, the
25 ~~president concerned~~ **presidents** shall submit the required nominations. Within thirty
26 days thereafter, the governor shall make his appointment, with consent of the Senate.
27 ~~If the governor fails to appoint within thirty days, the nominee whose name is first~~
28 ~~on the list of nominees automatically shall become a member of the commission,~~
29 ~~with consent of the Senate~~. If any nominating authority fails to submit nominees in

1 the time required, ~~or if one of the named institutions ceases to exist~~, the governor
2 shall make the appointment to the commission, with consent of the Senate.

3 **(2) The governor shall assign a term of either one year, two years, three**
4 **years, or four years to each member of the commission in office on January 1,**
5 **2026, to provide for the initial overlapping terms of office after January 1, 2026.**
6 **However, if a member of the commission in office on January 1, 2026, has**
7 **served on the commission for more than eight years, that person is not eligible**
8 **to continue to serve as a member of the commission, and the governor shall**
9 **appoint a person to fill the vacancy.**

10 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to
11 the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 15,
12 2025.

13 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election
14 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
15 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
16 follows:

17 "Do you support an amendment to shorten the term of office for members of
18 the State Civil Service Commission from six to four years, to limit their
19 service to two full terms rather than three consecutive terms, to reduce the
20 number of members of the commission required to be appointed from
21 nominations by the presidents of specified private colleges and universities,
22 and to allow positions to be removed from the classified service by law?"

23 (Amends Article X, Section 2(B) and Section 3(B) and (C))

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

SB 8 Original

DIGEST
2025 Regular Session

Morris

Present constitution lists specific positions to be included in the unclassified service of state and city civil service and authorizes a civil service commission to add additional positions in the unclassified service which may be revoked by rules adopted by a commission.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains the present constitution but authorizes the

legislature to also remove positions from the classified state civil service.

Proposed constitutional amendment decreases the term for members, appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate, to the State Civil Service Commission from staggered overlapping terms of six years to staggered overlapping terms of four years.

Present constitution prohibits a person from serving for more than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms from being appointed for the succeeding term on the commission.

Proposed constitutional amendment prohibits a member from serving on the commission for not more than two full terms.

Proposed constitutional amendment removes language that the term limitation does not apply to persons appointed to the commission prior to its effective date of the proposed Constitutional Amendment except for a term of service beginning after that date.

Present constitution provides for nominations of persons to serve on the State Civil Service Commission as follows:

- (1) The six university presidents of Centenary College, Dillard, Louisiana College, Loyola University, Tulane University, and Xavier University each nominate up to three nominees.
- (2) The governor appoints one person from those nominated by each president for a total of six appointees.
- (3) A seventh commission member is elected by the classified employees of the state from their number.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the nomination process as follows:

- (1) Retains requirement that nominations be submitted from the six university presidents but clarifies that each president separately nominates up to three persons to fill a vacancy.
- (2) The governor appoints three members from the list of nominees submitted by the university presidents for a total of three members and that this is done prior to the governor appointing his three members to the commission - for a total of six members.
- (3) Retains the seventh commission member elected by the classified employees of the state from their number.

Present constitution provides for filling vacancies on the commission by appointment or election pursuant to the procedure or law governing the particular appointment or election. Requires that the university president can submit the required nominations within 30 days after the vacancy occurs; requires the governor to make his appointment within 30 days after the submission of the nominees. If a nominating authority fails to submit nominees in the time required, the governor is to make his appointment with consent of the Senate.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that if the vacancy occurs of a member appointed from the list of nominees submitted by university presidents, then the presidents are to submit the required nominations within 30 days after the vacancy. Retains requirement for the governor to make his appointment within 30 days after nominees are submitted to him or make his appointment if no nominees are submitted in the time required.

Present constitution provides that if the governor fails to appoint a person within 30 days after the submission of nominees, then the nominee whose name is first on the list of

nominees will automatically become a member of the commission with consent of the Senate.

Proposed constitutional amendment removes this provision for automatic appointment upon failure by the governor to appoint a person within 30 days after submission of nominees.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires that the governor assign terms of either one year, two years, three years, or four years to each member of the commission in office on January 1, 2026, in order to provide for the initial overlapping terms of office after January 1, 2026. Provides that a commission member in office on January 1, 2026, who has served on the commission for more than eight years is not eligible to continue to serve, and the governor is to appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 15, 2025.

(Amends Const. Art. X, Sec. 2(B) and Sec. 3(B) and (C))