

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Requires peace officers to be citizens of the United States

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:2402(5) and 2404.4, relative to the qualification of peace officers in
3 Louisiana; to provide for definitions; to provide that peace officers shall be United
4 States citizens; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:2402(5) and 2404.4 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §2402. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter:

9 * * *

10 (5) "United States citizen" shall have the same meaning as "United States
11 citizen" in 42 USC 9102(18).

12 * * *

13 §2404.4. Peace officers; United States citizen

14 In addition to all training requirements and qualifications for employment
15 provided in this Chapter and any other provision of law, in order to be certified as
16 a law enforcement peace officer in Louisiana, the person shall be a United States
17 citizen.

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 39 Original

2026 Regular Session

Firmment

Abstract: Requires peace officers to be citizens of the United States.

Present law provides for qualifications, requirements, and training requirements for all peace officers in La.

Present federal law defines "United States citizen" as any individual who is a citizen of the United States by law, birth, or naturalization.

Proposed law requires all persons seeking to be a peace officer in La. to be a United States citizen as defined in federal law.

(Adds R.S. 40:2402(5) and 2404.4)