

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 41

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEWITT

RETIREMENT/FIREFIGHTERS: Provides relative to board membership of the Firefighters' Retirement System

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 11:2260(A)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (a)(introductory
3 paragraph) and (3) and to enact R.S. 11:2260(A)(2)(a)(iii), relative to the
4 Firefighters' Retirement System; to provide relative to certain members of the board
5 of trustees; to provide for term limits; to provide for qualifications; to provide for
6 elections; to provide relative to vacancies on the board of trustees; and to provide for
7 related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 11:2260(A)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (a)(introductory
13 paragraph) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 11:2260(A)(2)(a)(iii) is
14 hereby enacted to read as follows:

16 A. Board of trustees:

17 * * *

18 (2) The board shall consist of ~~thirteen~~ trustees as follows:

19 (a) Two members of the Professional Fire Fighters Association who shall be
20 members active members of the system and who shall be elected by a majority of the

1 ~~officers of the association as follows: who shall have at least ten years of service~~
2 ~~credit and who shall be elected by members of the system as follows:~~

3 * * *

4 (iii) A member elected pursuant to this Subparagraph to serve a term
5 beginning on or after January 1, 2027, shall be eligible to serve only three
6 consecutive terms. Upon completion of the third consecutive term, the member shall
7 be ineligible for a fourth consecutive term.

8 * * *

9 ~~(3)(a) If an active member dies while serving on the board, the vacancy shall~~
10 ~~be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the office was previously~~
11 ~~filled. If an active member's status changes such that he would no longer qualify for~~
12 ~~the position he holds on the board of trustees, or if an active member retires or a~~
13 ~~member terminates employment after participating in the Deferred Retirement~~
14 ~~Option Plan and retires, while serving on the board, he shall continue to serve until~~
15 ~~his term expires. If any other vacancy occurs in the office of a trustee, the vacancy~~
16 ~~shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as was previously filled.~~
17 ~~Should the term of a board member expire during the period of participation in the~~
18 ~~Deferred Retirement Option Plan, he shall be eligible to seek reelection to his~~
19 ~~position while participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan. A vacancy in~~
20 ~~the membership of the board shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner~~
21 ~~provided in Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section, except that if a vacancy occurs in the~~
22 ~~office of an elected trustee and the unexpired term is less than two years, the board~~
23 ~~shall fill the vacancy by appointment within sixty days for the unexpired portion of~~
24 ~~the term.~~

25 (b) If an active member of the board of trustees terminates employment with
26 a fire department for any reason, his term shall end immediately, and the vacancy
27 shall be filled as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

28 * * *

1 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to terms of office beginning on or
2 after January 1, 2027.

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 41 Original

2026 Regular Session

Dewitt

Abstract: Provides relative to the Firefighters' Retirement System (FRS) board of trustees.

Present law provides that membership on the FRS board of trustees includes the following:

- (1) A member of the House Committee on Retirement appointed by the speaker.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Retirement or his designee.
- (3) Two retirees of the system elected by a majority vote of the retirees and beneficiaries.
- (4) Three members of the La. Fire Chiefs' Assoc. elected by a majority of the officers of the association.
- (5) Two mayors appointed by the La. Municipal Assoc.
- (6) The state treasurer or his designee.
- (7) The commissioner of administration or his designee.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the board additionally includes two members of the Professional Fire Fighters' Assoc. elected by a majority vote of the officers of the association.

Proposed law provides instead that the two members on the board be active members of the system with at least 10 years of service credit and be elected by a majority vote of the members of the system.

Proposed law limits the active members from serving more than three consecutive terms.

Present law provides that in the event a member of the board dies during his term of office, the vacancy is filled in a manner consistent with present law. Provides that if the status of a trustee changes such that he would no longer qualify, or he terminates employment or retires after participant in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), he shall continue to serve until his term expires. Provides that if any other vacancy occurs the vacancy shall be filled in a manner consistent with present law. Provides that if a trustee's term expires during DROP participation, he is eligible to seek reelection during DROP participation.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law requires a vacancy of an active member be filled in accordance with proposed law and present law. Provides that if less than two years remain on an unexpired term of an elected trustee, the board must appoint someone to fill the unexpired vacancy within 60 days.

Proposed law provides that a board member's term ceases upon termination of employment with a fire department for any reason. Provides that the vacancy is filled in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 11:2260(A)(2)(intro. para.) and (a)(intro. para.) and (3); Adds R.S. 11:2260(A)(2)(a)(iii))