

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 431

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARLSON, BILLINGS, CARVER, COX, DOMANGUE,
FARNUM, FREIBERG, GADBERRY, JACKSON, LYONS, MARCELLE,
MURRAY, SAWYER, AND STAGNI AND SENATOR LUNEAU

MUNICIPAL: Requires certain training for certain local officials

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:1420.31, relative to local government officials; to provide
3 relative to training requirements for certain local government officials; to provide
4 relative to resources and training offered by state agencies, associations, or groups
5 that provide municipal governance training; to provide relative to subject matter
6 requirements for such resources and training; to provide for reporting of certain
7 information; to provide exceptions; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 33:1420.31 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §1420.31. Local government officials; training; ~~certain municipalities~~

12 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all mayors
13 shall, and members of the governing authorities of municipalities with a population
14 of fifteen thousand persons or less according the latest federal decennial census may,
15 participate in workshops and other training courses offered by state agencies,
16 associations, or groups that provide training to local government officials, which are
17 intended to assist such officials in carrying out their duties by enhancing their
18 knowledge of laws regulating their respective municipalities. Any such elected
19 official may use any local government resource provided by such agencies,
20 associations, or groups to the officials and their respective municipalities and make
21 such resources available to administrative staff members.

1 B. Any state agency, association, or group provided for in Subsection A of
2 this Section ~~may~~ shall work jointly with the Louisiana Municipal Association to
3 provide workshops, training courses, and other resources to the elected officials and
4 may offer incentives to the officials, such as continuing education credits or
5 certificates for specialization in certain subject matters, to encourage their use of
6 resources and attendance at workshops and training courses.

7 C. All mayors shall earn not less than sixteen hours of credit annually
8 through their attendance at workshops and other training courses that are offered by
9 state agencies, associations, or groups and that are approved by the Louisiana
10 Municipal Association as provided in this Section.

11 D. The training requirement provided for in Subsection C of this Section
12 shall include any training that is required by state law, including the following:

- 13 (1) Ethics training pursuant to R.S. 42:1170.
14 (2) Sexual harassment prevention training pursuant to R.S. 42:343.
15 (3) Cybersecurity training pursuant to R.S. 42:1267.
16 (4) Campaign finance training pursuant to R.S. 42:1170.
17 (5) Training on procurement and letting of public contracts pursuant to R.S.
18 33:1420.32.

- 19 (6) Emergency preparedness training pursuant to R.S. 29:726(F)(2).

20 E. The Louisiana Municipal Association shall establish the training courses
21 offered to elected officials pursuant to Subsection C of this Section within, at a
22 minimum, the following categories of municipal governance:

- 23 (1) The Lawrason Act and municipal authority.
24 (2) The roles and responsibilities of mayors and municipal councils.
25 (3) Public budgeting, finance, audits, and procurement laws.
26 (4) Ethics and conflicts of interest.
27 (5) Human resources, personnel management, and civil service.
28 (6) Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.
29 (7) Public safety, emergency preparedness, and police and fire operations.

- 1 (8) Utility operations and infrastructure management.
- 2 (9) Planning, zoning, annexation, and land use.
- 3 (10) Economic development and community engagement.
- 4 (11) Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure.
- 5 (12) Municipal best practices and compliance.
- 6 (13) Tax codes, revenue authority, and financial administration.
- 7 (14) Municipal retirement systems.

8 F.(1) Each mayor shall attest to his compliance with the training and
9 continuing education requirements of this Section using a form provided by the
10 legislative auditor. The attestation of the mayor shall be included with and made part
11 of the municipality's submission of its annual financial statements to the legislative
12 auditor as required by R.S. 24:513.

13 (2) The licensed certified public accountant engaged to perform the review
14 or audit of the municipality shall include verification of the mayor's compliance with
15 the training and continuing education requirements of this Section as part of the
16 accountant's engaged work.

17 (3) The legislative auditor shall maintain on his website a public list, by
18 municipality, of mayors who are compliant and who are non-compliant with the
19 training and continuing education requirements of this Section.

20 ~~E. G. The provisions of this Part are applicable to any person who is~~
21 ~~appointed temporarily to fill a vacancy in an elective office of any municipality~~
22 ~~provided for in Subsection A of this Section~~ The provisions of this Part shall not
23 apply to any person who is appointed temporarily to fill a vacancy in the office of
24 mayor if the duration of such appointment is less than one year.

25 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on 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 431 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Carlson

Abstract: Requires mayors to complete additional training and continuing education annually.

Present law authorizes mayors and members of the governing authorities of municipalities with a population of 15,000 persons or less to participate in workshops and other training courses offered by associations or groups that provide training to local government officials.

Present law authorizes the agencies, associations, or groups to work jointly to provide workshops, training courses, and other resources to the elected officials. Authorizes the agencies, associations, or groups to offer incentives such as continuing education credits or certificates for specialization.

Proposed law requires all mayors to complete not less than 16 hours of additional training and continuing education annually. Provides that all mayors shall receive credit towards proposed law requirement through completion of any training required by present law, including ethics training, sexual harassment prevention training, cybersecurity training, campaign finance training, procurement and letting of public contracts training, and emergency preparedness training.

Proposed law requires the additional training and continuing education courses to be established by the La. Municipal Association within the following categories of municipal governance:

- (1) The Lawrason Act and municipal authority.
- (2) The roles and responsibilities of mayors and municipal councils.
- (3) Public budgeting, finance, audits, and procurement laws.
- (4) Ethics and conflicts of interest.
- (5) Human resources, personnel management, and civil service.
- (6) Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.
- (7) Public safety, emergency preparedness, and police and fire operations.
- (8) Utility operations and infrastructure management.
- (9) Planning, zoning, annexation, and land use.
- (10) Economic development and community engagement.
- (11) Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure.
- (12) Municipal best practices and compliance.
- (13) Tax codes, revenue authority, and financial administration.

(14) Municipal retirement systems.

Proposed law requires the mayors to attest to their compliance with proposed law training requirements by completing a form provided by the legislative auditor. Provides that each mayor's record of compliance shall be included with and made part of the respective municipality's submission of its annual financial statements to the legislative auditor, as required by present law (R.S. 24:513).

Proposed law requires the licensed certified public accountant engaged to perform the review or audit of the municipality to include verification of the mayor's compliance with the training required by proposed law.

Proposed law requires the legislative auditor to maintain on his website a public list, by municipality, or mayors who are compliant and who are non-compliant with the training requirements provided by proposed law.

Proposed law provides an exception to proposed law training requirements for any person who is temporarily appointed to the office of mayor for less than one year.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 33:1420.31)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Add Municipal Retirement Systems to the required categories of municipal governance training and continuing education to be established pursuant to proposed law.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.