

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION: Provides for calling a constitutional convention

1 AN ACT

2 To provide for the calling of a constitutional convention for the purpose of framing a new
3 constitution; to provide for legislative findings; to fix the time and place for the
4 convention; to provide for the delegates of the convention; to provide for the
5 organization and staff of the convention; to require that the constitution as adopted
6 by the convention be submitted to the qualified electors for adoption and to provide
7 relative to such submission; to provide for the application of specified laws,
8 including provisions of law containing criminal penalties, to delegates and staff of
9 the convention; to provide for the disbursement of funds for the convention and
10 otherwise provide with respect to funds for the convention; to fix the effective date
11 of the new constitution if approved by the electorate; to provide for an effective date;
12 and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

15 (A) It has been over fifty years since the Constitution of Louisiana became effective
16 at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the document which constitutes
17 the state's basic law has been amended two hundred twenty-one times. At more than
18 seventy-five thousand words, the Constitution of Louisiana is one of the top five largest
19 constitutions in the nation.

20 (B) The constitution today contains too many provisions that restrict the legislature
21 from effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and the document also includes

1 extensive provisions that are so detailed as to be statutory rather than constitutional in nature
2 and, as a result, require continual constitutional amendment when change is needed.

3 (C) The state constitution needs to be streamlined to the fundamental and
4 foundational law of the state, including the basic principles of the state, the structure of
5 government, and the fundamental rights of citizens. Other extremely detailed provisions in
6 the constitution should be transitioned out of the constitution and made statutory to allow
7 for flexibility and innovation in legislative solutions to problems of the present and the
8 future.

9 Section 2. Call for convention; delegates. (A) A constitutional convention is hereby
10 called, to convene on Monday, April 10, 2028, at 12:00 noon, which shall be held for the
11 purpose of framing a new constitution for the state of Louisiana.

12 (B)(1) There shall be ninety-three delegates to the convention who shall be selected
13 as follows:

14 (a) Two delegates shall be elected from each of the districts from which members
15 of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana are elected as provided in R.S. 24:35.1.

16 (b) One delegate shall be elected from each of the districts from which
17 commissioners of the Public Service Commission are elected as provided in R.S. 45:1161.4.

18 (c) Ten delegates shall be appointed by the governor, none of whom shall be the
19 governor, the governor's spouse, or a member of the governor's executive staff.

20 (2) Each delegate to the convention shall be an elector of the state of Louisiana, shall
21 be at least eighteen years of age, and shall be a resident of the state of Louisiana. In
22 addition, each delegate elected from a district shall be a resident of the district from which
23 he is elected at the time he qualifies as a candidate for election as a delegate. Any public
24 official of the governmental subdivisions of the state, whether holding office by election or
25 appointment, if otherwise qualified, shall be eligible for election or appointment as a
26 delegate of the convention.

27 (3) The secretary of state shall issue a commission to each delegate.

28 (4)(a) The service of a legislator or other public official or public employee as a
29 delegate to the convention and the employment or appointment of any public official or
30 public employee to the staff of the convention and his service on such staff, as authorized

1 and provided in this Act, shall not be construed to constitute dual officeholding or dual
2 employment within the prohibitions of Part III of Chapter 2 of Title 42 of the Louisiana
3 Revised Statutes of 1950.

4 (b) The service of a judge as a delegate to the convention shall not be construed as
5 grounds for recusal.

6 (c) Each delegate shall be considered to be an elected official within the scope of and
7 subject to the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the
8 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Each staff member of the convention shall be
9 considered to be a public employee within the scope of and subject to the provisions of the
10 Code of Governmental Ethics, Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
11 1950. For purposes of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the
12 agency and the governmental entity of delegates and staff members of the convention shall
13 be the convention. For purposes of any other office or employment of any such delegate or
14 staff member, the provisions of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
15 1950 shall remain applicable.

16 (d) Each delegate to the convention and each staff member of the convention shall
17 be considered to be a public officer, public official, public employee, or person in a position
18 of public authority for purposes of the application of the provisions of the Louisiana
19 Criminal Code.

20 (e) No delegate shall accept or deposit a contribution as defined in R.S. 18:1483 and
21 no campaign fundraising function shall be held for or by a delegate during the period of time
22 from Monday, April 10, 2028, through Sunday, October 15, 2028.

23 (f) The provisions of the Public Records Law shall apply to the convention, its
24 committees, and delegates to the same extent and with the same limitations as applicable to
25 records of the legislature and members of the legislature.

26 (g) The provisions of the Open Meetings Law shall apply to the convention and its
27 committees in the same manner as applicable to the legislature and either house or
28 committees thereof.

29 (5) Any attorney at law serving as a delegate to the convention or as a member of
30 the staff of the convention shall be entitled to the absolute right of the continuance of any

1 case in which he is bona fide counsel of record in any court of the state during his attendance
2 upon the sessions of the convention or meetings of its committees of which he is a member.

3 (C)(1)(a) The election for the delegates to the convention shall be held at the open
4 primary election to be held on Saturday, March 25, 2028. The governor shall make
5 proclamation and give notice of the election to be held under this Section in accordance with
6 R.S. 18:402(E)(1). Each person desiring to become a candidate for election as a delegate
7 from a district shall qualify as a candidate from the district in which he resides by filing a
8 notice of candidacy beginning Wednesday, December 15, 2027, and ending Friday,
9 December 17, 2027.

10 (b) For the delegates to be elected from each of the districts from which members
11 of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana are elected, the two delegates that receive the
12 highest number of votes shall be elected. If more than two candidates receive the highest
13 number of votes, the candidates who received the same number of votes shall be selected by
14 a public drawing of lots conducted by the State Board of Election Supervisors from among
15 the candidates who received the same number of votes in the election.

16 (c) For the delegates to be elected from each of the districts from which
17 commissioners of the Public Service Commission are elected, the candidate that receives the
18 highest number of votes shall be elected. If more than one candidate receives the highest
19 number of votes, the delegate shall be selected by a public drawing of lots conducted by the
20 State Board of Election Supervisors from among the candidates who received the highest
21 number of votes in the election.

22 (d) The public drawing of lots shall be conducted at the state capitol on a day and
23 at a time fixed by the board within one week after the results of the election become official.
24 The candidates involved shall be given at least three days' written notice of the time and
25 place of the public drawing of lots.

26 (2) A candidate for delegate who qualifies to be elected from a district from which
27 members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana are elected shall be considered a local
28 candidate and shall qualify with the clerk of court for the parish in which the candidate is
29 registered to vote. The candidate shall pay a qualifying fee of three hundred dollars. In
30 addition to this fee, a candidate shall pay an additional qualifying fee of twenty-five dollars,

1 which additional fee shall be deposited into the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund as provided
2 in R.S. 18:454.

3 (3) A candidate for delegate who qualifies to be elected from a district from which
4 commissioners of the Public Service Commission are elected shall be considered a state
5 candidate and shall qualify with the secretary of state or a person in his office designated to
6 receive qualifying papers. The candidate shall pay a qualifying fee of four hundred fifty
7 dollars. In addition to this fee, a candidate shall pay an additional qualifying fee of twenty-
8 five dollars, which additional fee shall be deposited into the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund
9 as provided in R.S. 18:454.

10 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the election provided for in this Section
11 shall be held and the results shall be promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Election
12 Code. All qualified electors shall be entitled to vote without regard to party affiliation. The
13 costs of the election shall be paid as provided in the Louisiana Election Code for elections
14 in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot.

15 (5) Delegates shall be elected by the qualified electors participating in the election
16 in the manner provided in Subpart F of Part IV of Chapter 5 of the Louisiana Election Code
17 for the election of candidates.

18 Section 3. Vacancies. (A) In the event of the resignation, death, or inability to serve
19 due to a documented illness of an elected delegate, whether before or during the convention,
20 the governor shall fill such vacancy by appointment of a person from the same district from
21 which the delegate was elected who possesses the qualifications provided in Section 2 of this
22 Act.

23 (B) In the event of the resignation, death, or inability due to a documented illness
24 of an appointed delegate to serve, whether before or during the convention, the vacancy shall
25 be filled in the same manner and subject to the same qualifications as the original
26 appointment.

27 Section 4.(A)(1) Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, the convention
28 shall have full authority to frame a new constitution for the state which shall be submitted
29 to the electors of the state for their approval or rejection at the open general election to be
30 held on Saturday, December 16, 2028.

1 (B) The proposed revision of the constitution shall provide that provisions of the
2 Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution
3 for the state shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised
4 Statutes of 1950, as amended, dedicated to that purpose, which shall be established as Title
5 57.

6 (C) Any action by the convention in contravention of the provisions of this Section
7 shall be null and void and of no effect.

8 (D)(1) Any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of this Act,
9 to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any
10 action of the convention with the provisions of this Act shall be brought in the Nineteenth
11 Judicial District Court subject to direct appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court. The matter
12 shall be tried by preference over other matters, and the court shall render a decision as soon
13 as practicable.

14 (2) If the action is to determine the validity or conformity of an action of the
15 convention, such action shall be brought within fifteen days of the action of the convention.

16 Section 5. Severability. (A) The provisions of the proposed revision of the
17 constitution shall be severable. If any provision of the proposed revision of the constitution
18 is deemed null and void and of no effect by final judgment of a court of competent
19 jurisdiction after adoption by the convention but prior to its submission to the electors, then
20 the provision deemed null and void shall be removed from the proposed revision of the
21 constitution by the secretary of state and the remainder of the proposed revision of the
22 constitution shall be submitted to the electors in accordance with this Act.

23 (B) If any provision of the revision of the constitution, or the application thereof, is
24 deemed invalid after ratification by the electors, such invalidity shall not affect other
25 provisions, items, or applications of the revision which can be given effect without the
26 invalid provision, item, or application.

27 Section 6. Convention organization. (A)(1) The delegates to the convention chosen
28 as provided in this Act shall convene in the House Chamber in the state capitol on Monday,
29 April 10, 2028, at 12:00 noon. The secretary of state shall preside until the chairman has
30 been elected. The secretary of state, or a designee of the secretary of state, shall attend the

1 opening of the convention, call the roll of the delegates, and administer the following oath
2 to the delegates:

3 "I, . . . , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of
4 the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and
5 impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as a delegate to the
6 convention, according to the best of my ability and understanding, and that I will observe
7 and obey the limitation of authority contained in the Act under which this convention has
8 assembled. So help me God."

9 (2) No delegate shall be qualified to serve as such unless and until the delegate has
10 taken and subscribed to the oath in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

11 (B) After the oath has been administered, the delegates shall proceed to effect the
12 permanent organization of the convention and shall:

13 (1) Elect from among their number a chairman and a vice chairman.

14 (2) Elect from among their number an executive committee, the membership of
15 which shall be determined by the delegates but which shall include the chairman and vice
16 chairman.

17 (3) Select a chief clerical officer of the convention from among the chief clerical
18 officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate and their assistants, who shall not
19 be a delegate and whose duties shall be provided by the rules of procedure for the
20 convention.

21 (4) Take such other actions as they deem necessary to effect a permanent
22 organization of the convention.

23 (C) The elections provided for in this Section shall be conducted in the method
24 provided for the election of candidates as provided in R.S. 18:511 and 512.

25 (D)(1)(a) Prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature, the
26 House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on Senate and
27 Governmental Affairs, meeting jointly, shall propose the rules of procedure for
28 consideration, amendment, and adoption by the Legislature of Louisiana during the 2027
29 Regular Session of the Legislature. The proposed rules shall be introduced as a concurrent
30 resolution in the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature. If the legislature fails to adopt

1 rules for the convention, the convention shall, upon convening, adopt rules based upon the
2 rules proposed by the joint committees.

3 (b) The rules proposed by the joint committees and adopted by the Legislature of
4 Louisiana shall be based upon the rules of the constitutional convention convened in 1973,
5 except as inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, and shall provide that on any question
6 of legislative procedure, when the rules are silent or inexplicit, Mason's Manual of
7 Legislative Procedure shall be considered as authority. The rules of procedure shall be
8 subject to later change by the delegates as provided therein. The rules shall provide that no
9 action shall be taken by the convention without the favorable vote of at least a majority of
10 the delegates and that no delegate shall be allowed to vote by proxy.

11 (2) Prior to the convening of the convention, the House Committee on House and
12 Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs shall,
13 meeting jointly, adopt a schedule for the convention. The schedule proposed by the joint
14 committees shall provide for meetings for the convention and its committees.

15 (3) Adoption of any proposal by the joint committees shall require a favorable vote
16 of a majority of the members of each legislative committee present and voting, each house
17 voting separately, a quorum of the joint committee being present.

18 (E) The convention shall establish fourteen committees, one committee for each
19 article of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, which shall be charged with the
20 duty of reviewing and recommending changes to the article of the Constitution of the State
21 of Louisiana of 1974 to which it is assigned and one executive committee as provided in
22 Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section. No committee of the convention, including the executive
23 committee, shall exceed seventeen members and the rules shall so provide. No committee
24 of the convention may establish subcommittees, and the rules shall so provide.

25 (F) After completing organizational activities, the convention shall meet in
26 committees, in accordance with the schedule adopted by the House Committee on House and
27 Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs as
28 provided in this Act. Each committee that meets shall provide a report of its activities to the
29 full convention no later than Friday, September 15, 2028.

1 (G) The full convention shall convene beginning Saturday, September 16, 2028, to
2 consider as a committee of the whole the report of each committee. The chairman and vice
3 chairman of the convention shall serve as chairman and vice chairman of the committee of
4 the whole. The convention shall complete its work no later than Sunday, October 15, 2028.

5 Section 7. Legal advisor; staff; budget; committees. (A)(1) The attorney general
6 or a designee of the attorney general shall be the legal advisor to the convention.

7 (2) Staff support for the convention shall be provided by the staffs of the House of
8 Representatives, the Senate, the legislative fiscal office, the legislative auditor's office, and
9 other legislative agencies. In addition, as soon as possible after the members of the
10 executive committee are selected, the executive committee shall request the provision of
11 professional, research, technical, and clerical employees from any public or private sources
12 the committee deems necessary to accomplish the work of the convention.

13 (B) The staff of the constitutional convention may include but shall not be limited
14 to the following who shall not be delegates to the convention or registered as a legislative
15 or executive branch lobbyist with the Louisiana Board of Ethics on or after Thursday,
16 January 1, 2026, as provided in Chapter 1 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
17 1950 or in Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950:

18 (1) A director of research who shall possess such qualifications as determined by the
19 executive committee.

20 (2) Research assistants in such number and possessing such qualifications as
21 determined by the executive committee.

22 (3) Personnel from the faculty of in-state law schools as requested by the executive
23 committee.

24 (4) Such other staff as the executive committee deems necessary.

25 (C) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a staff member provided
26 to the convention is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, the staff member may
27 continue to be paid and receive the usual compensation and benefits from his employer while
28 the staff member is engaged in the work of the committee or the convention.

29 (D) As soon as possible after the members of the executive committee are elected,
30 the executive committee shall prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention

1 based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds of the state
2 general fund available for expenditure.

3 (E) The executive committee shall appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and the
4 membership of each committee provided for in Section 6(E) of this Act.

5 (F) Unless the legislature is in session, the House chamber, the Senate chamber, and
6 the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol shall be available for use by the
7 convention and its committees. If the facilities at the state capitol are not available or are
8 not sufficient for use by the convention or its committees, the convention or its committees
9 shall meet at a suitable location in the capital city, which location shall be determined by the
10 chairman of the convention, and public notice of the location shall be given and posted at
11 suitable locations in the state capitol. The convention shall have full authority to use the
12 facilities and services of any board, commission, department, or agency of the state or of any
13 political subdivision of the state, and all such entities shall cooperate with the convention to
14 the fullest extent in furnishing services, facilities, and employees upon request. In addition,
15 the convention may use the facilities and services of other persons and organizations.

16 Section 8. Compensation of delegates. The delegates to the convention shall receive
17 the same per diem and travel allowances provided for members of the legislature pursuant
18 to R.S. 24:31 and 31.1 for their attendance at the convention or any committee thereof. No
19 delegate shall receive a per diem or travel allowance for any day for which the delegate also
20 received a per diem or travel allowance for his duties for other public service. No delegate
21 may accept any compensation from any other source for work performed as a delegate to the
22 convention. However, if a delegate is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, should the
23 delegate's employer choose to continue to pay the usual compensation while the delegate is
24 engaged in the work of the convention, such delegate may accept that compensation,
25 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.

26 Section 9. Appropriation; use of funds. (A) Any appropriation for the expenses of
27 the convention shall be used solely to defray the necessary expenses of the constitutional
28 convention for which provision is made in this Act, including the payment for supplies,
29 materials, equipment, printing, and reproduction of materials, and all other necessary
30 expenses incurred in connection with the convention and its work.

1 (B) Any funds appropriated for the convention shall be withdrawn from the state
2 treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the chairman of the convention, and all
3 checks for the disbursement of funds shall be signed by the chairman and the vice chairman
4 of the convention or by the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as shall be
5 designated by the convention.

6 (C) Expenses of the convention shall not be paid for by and the convention shall not
7 accept any grants, moneys, aid, facilities, or services from private sources.

8 (D) The convention shall not be deemed to be a budget unit of the state and therefore
9 shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of Title 39 of the Louisiana
10 Revised Statutes of 1950. The financial books and records of the convention, however, shall
11 be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

12 Section 10. Submission of proposed constitution; election. (A) Upon completion
13 of its work, and not later than Sunday, October 15, 2028, and subject to the limitations
14 provided in Section 4 of this Act, the convention shall submit a proposed draft of a new
15 constitution for the state to the governor. The constitution as drafted by the convention shall
16 be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection. Immediately upon receipt of the
17 proposed draft of the new constitution for the state, and no later than Monday, October 16,
18 2028, the governor shall by proclamation call an election to be held at the same time as the
19 2028 open general election to be held on Saturday, December 16, 2028, for the purpose of
20 submitting the proposed draft to the people for adoption or rejection.

21 (B) The election shall be held and the results shall be promulgated in accordance
22 with the Louisiana Election Code. All electors duly qualified to vote in the state at the time
23 of the election shall be entitled to vote without regard to party affiliation on the proposition
24 for or against adoption of the revision of the constitution proposed by the convention. The
25 costs of the election shall be paid as provided in the Louisiana Election Code for elections
26 in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot.

27 (C)(1) The convention shall submit to the electors of the state the proposal of
28 acceptance or rejection of the constitution and may direct the proper election officials to take
29 the necessary steps to effectuate such determination of the convention in presenting the
30 proposed constitution to the electors. The ballot language shall be as follows:

1 "Do you support the adoption of the proposed 2029 Constitution?

2 (Vote for one)

3 FOR adoption of the proposed 2029 Constitution. _____

4 AGAINST adoption of the proposed 2029 Constitution. _____"

5 (2) Adoption of the constitution shall require the favorable vote of a majority of the
6 electors voting on the proposition.

7 (D) Upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state, if the
8 constitution is ratified and adopted by the people in the election for which provision is made
9 in this Section, the governor shall proclaim the constitution to be the Constitution of
10 Louisiana. The constitution shall become effective at midnight on Friday, December 31,
11 2028, except as otherwise provided in the constitution adopted.

12 Section 11. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
13 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
14 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
15 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
16 effective on the day following such approval.

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 4 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Calls a constitutional convention to convene at noon on April 10, 2028. Provides the convention is composed of 93 delegates. Requires the convention to complete a new constitution by Oct. 15, 2028. Provides for the proposed constitution to be presented to the electors of the state at the open general election on Dec. 16, 2028.

Constitutional Convention

Proposed law provides for a constitutional convention as follows:

- (1) Calls the convention to convene at noon on April 10, 2028, to frame a new constitution for the state.
- (2) Provides for 93 delegates as follows: 83 elected delegates and 10 delegates appointed by the governor.
- (3) Excepts service of delegates and staff of the convention from dual employment/dual officeholding laws. Delegates and staff are subject to the La. Code of Ethics.

Further, delegates and staff are considered public officers, public officials, public employees, or persons in a position of public authority for purposes of the application of the provisions of the La. criminal code. Provides that service of a judge as a delegate is not grounds for recusal. Attorney delegates and staff are entitled to continuance of cases in which they are counsel of record while attending sessions and committee meetings. Prohibits acceptance or deposit of campaign contributions and fundraisers by delegates during the time of the convention. Provides that records of the convention and delegates are subject to the Public Records Law to the same extent and limitations applicable to the legislature and legislators.

- (4) Provides for filling of vacancies through appointment. A vacancy in an elected office shall be filled by a person from the same district appointed by the governor. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law provides for the qualification and election of delegates at the spring 2028 open primary election by plurality vote. Provides that two delegates shall be elected from each Senate district. Provides that one delegate shall be elected from each Public Service Commission district. Provides for the method of qualifying for candidate and associated qualifying fees.

Proposed law grants to the convention the authority to frame a new state constitution. Provides that the proposed constitution shall provide that provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 dedicated to that purpose. The proposed constitution shall provide that such provisions made statutory and contained in the dedicated statutory title, which shall be established as Title 57, may only be changed by law adopted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed law provides that any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of proposed law, to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any action of the convention with proposed law shall be brought in the 19th Judicial District Court subject to direct appeal to the supreme court. The matter shall be tried by preference over other matters, and the court shall render a decision as soon as practicable. If the action is to determine the validity or conformity of an action of the convention, such action shall be brought within 15 days of the action of the convention.

Proposed law provides for convention organization as follows:

- (1) Includes provisions for oath for delegates; election of chairman, vice chairman, and chief clerical officer; and election of an executive committee which shall include the chairman and vice chairman; and other actions necessary to organize.
- (2) Provides for the establishment of 15 committees, only: 14 committees, each dedicated to a single Article of the Constitution of La. of 1974, and one executive committee. Limits committee membership to 17 members. Provides for the appointment of members to the 14 committees. Provides for the election of the executive committee. Prohibits establishing subcommittees.
- (3) Provides for House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, prior to the convention, to adopt rules of procedure for the convention based on the 1973 convention rules and a schedule for the convention and convention committees. Provides that action by the convention requires a favorable vote of a majority of the convention. Prohibits proxy voting.

Proposed law provides for the initial meeting of the convention at noon on April 10, 2028. Provides that after organizational activities are completed, the convention shall meet in committees according to the schedule adopted by the joint governmental affairs committees and each convention committee shall provide a report of its activities to the full convention no later than Sept. 15, 2028. Requires the full convention to convene beginning Sept. 16, 2028, to consider the report of each committee as a committee of the whole. The chairman and vice chairman of the convention shall serve as the chairman and vice chairman of the committee of the whole. The convention shall complete its work no later than Oct. 15, 2028.

Proposed law provides for convention staff, budget, committees, meeting site, and other assistance as follows:

- (1) Requires the executive committee to request the provision of professional, research, technical, and clerical staff from public or private sources as deemed necessary.
- (2) Provides that the attorney general or designee of the attorney general shall serve as legal advisor to the convention and that convention staff may include but not be limited to a research director, research assistants, personnel from the faculty of in-state law schools as requested by the executive committee, and such other staff as deemed necessary by the executive committee. Allows the staff of the convention to continue to receive compensation from the staff person's regular bona fide employment. Prohibits delegates and lobbyists from serving as convention staff.
- (3) Requires the executive committee to prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention, based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds available for expenditure.
- (4) Provides that the executive committee of the convention appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and membership of each committee of the convention.
- (5) Requires that the House and Senate Chambers and the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol be available for convention use, unless the legislature is in session. Authorizes the convention to meet elsewhere in Baton Rouge as determined by the chairman when state capitol facilities are not available or are insufficient.
- (6) Authorizes convention use of facilities and services of state departments and agencies and of political subdivisions and requires their cooperation in furnishing services, facilities, and employees.

Proposed law provides for compensation of delegates and payment of convention expenses as follows:

- (1) Delegates to the convention shall receive the same per diem and travel allowances provided for members of the legislature pursuant to present law (R.S. 24:31 and 31.1). Prohibits a delegate from accepting any compensation from any other source for work performed as a delegate to the convention, but allows a delegate to continue to receive compensation for the delegate's regular bona fide employment while a delegate.
- (2) Requires that the legislature make adequate appropriations to the convention for the payment of the necessary expenses of the convention such as supplies, materials, equipment, and printing for so long as the convention remains in existence and for so long thereafter as is necessary to pay the expenses of the convention. Prohibits use of funds from private sources to pay the expenses of the convention. Provides that the convention is not a state budget unit. Specifies that the convention is subject to audit by the legislative auditor. Authorizes the presiding officers to utilize funds appropriated to the legislature to defray expenses of the convention.

- (3) Requires that funds appropriated be withdrawn from the state treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the convention chairman and that checks be signed by the chairman and vice chairman, or the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as designated by the convention.

Submission to Voters/Effectiveness

Proposed law requires the convention, upon completion of its work to submit to the governor the proposed constitution by Oct. 15, 2028. Provides that the constitution proposed for submission shall be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection at a special election. Requires the governor to call the election no later than Oct. 16, 2028, to be held at the same time as the 2028 open general election on Dec. 16, 2028. Provides for the election to be held and the results thereof promulgated in accordance with the La. Election Code and for costs to be paid as provided in the election code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot. Provides for the ballot language. Voters are allowed to vote without regard to party affiliation. Requires a majority vote to approve the constitution.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be severable and provides that if any provision is deemed null and void and of no effect by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction after adoption by the convention but prior to its submission to the electors, then the provision deemed null and void shall be removed from the proposed revision of the constitution by the secretary of state and the remainder of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be submitted to the electors in accordance proposed law. Further provides that if any provision of the revision of the constitution, or the application thereof, is deemed invalid after ratification by the electors, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of the revision which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application.

Proposed law requires, upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state if the constitution is ratified and adopted by the people, that the governor proclaim the constitution as adopted, to be the Constitution of La. Provides that the constitution shall become effective at midnight on Dec. 31, 2028, except as otherwise provided in the constitution.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

Timetable of Events

<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
Qualification period for delegate candidates	12/15/2027-12/17/2027
Election of delegates	3/25/2028 (open primary)
Convention to convene	4/10/2028 (noon)
Convention committees to submit reports to the full convention no later than	9/15/2028
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor no later than	10/15/2028
Election for submission of proposed constitution	12/16/2028 (open general)
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/28 (midnight)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Change the relevant dates for the convention and related elections as follows:

Action	Date - Original	Date – Amendment
Qualification period for delegate candidates	7/29/26-7/31/26	12/15/27-12/17/27
Primary election of delegates	11/3/2026	3/25/28
General election of delegates	12/12/2026	NONE
Convention to convene	12/29/2026 (noon)	4/10/28
Convention committees to submit reports to the full convention no later than	9/29/2027	9/15/28
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor no later than	10/29/2027	10/15/28
Election for submission of proposed constitution	11/20/2027 (Gubernatorial general)	12/16/28 (Open general)
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/27 (midnight)	12/31/28 (midnight)

2. Provide that election delegates shall be elected by plurality at the spring primary election in 2028, instead of by majority vote at the fall primary and general elections in 2026.
3. Specifically provide that when calling the special election for delegates, the governor shall be subject to the procedures provided for in present law for calling a special election.
4. Provide the method for qualifying for candidates for delegate and associated qualifying fees.
5. Provide for the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to meet and adopt rules and a schedule for the convention and committees of the convention, instead of legislative staff preparing rules for adoption by the convention.
6. Provide that on the day after he receives the proposed constitution, the governor shall call an election to submit the proposed amendment to the voters.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide the procedure for the election of candidates for delegate from each Senate district and from each Public Service Commission district.
2. Remove the requirement that provisions of the constitution continued as statutes may only be changed by law adopted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.
3. Provide for the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to meet prior to the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature, rather than prior to the convening of the convention.

4. Require the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to propose rules for the convention for adoption by the legislature during the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature, rather than require the committees to adopt rules for the convention.