
DIGEST

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HB No. 331

Abstract: Authorizes certain local governmental subdivisions to adopt and enforce local codes of conduct or ethics ordinances. Prohibits any such subdivision from adopting codes or ordinances that preempt, preempt, or otherwise preclude the enforcement of the La. Code of Governmental Ethics.

Present law provides that if New Orleans, East Baton Rouge Parish, or Jefferson Parish is authorized by its home rule charter, by statute, or by other law to create local ethics entities, including but not limited to an ethics review board or office of inspector general, the governing authority may designate the local ethics entity, ethics review board, or office of inspector general as a law enforcement agency. Additionally authorizes the governing authority to confer upon the local ethics entity, ethics review board, or office of inspector general all investigative powers and privileges appurtenant to a law enforcement agency under state law. Provides further with respect to the powers granted to a local ethics entity, ethics review board, or office of inspector general.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law additionally authorizes the governing authority of New Orleans, East Baton Rouge Parish, or Jefferson Parish to adopt and enforce local codes of conduct or ethics ordinances. Provides that the local codes or ordinances may regulate the same or similar activity as regulated by the provisions of the La. Code of Governmental Ethics (state ethics code), subject to the provisions of proposed law. Proposed law however prohibits the local governmental subdivisions from adopting and enforcing any local code or ordinance that preempts, preempts, or otherwise precludes the enforcement of the state ethics code by the La. Board of Ethics (ethics board) or precludes the ethics board from having exclusive jurisdiction over the enforcement of the state ethics code. Proposed law further provides that the adoption and enforcement of any local code or ordinance shall neither abridge nor abrogate any responsibility of an agency head to take preventive measures, report ethics violations, and cooperate in investigations as required by present law.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9612.1)