Berthelot (HB 201) Act No. 38

Existing law provides that the mayor presides at all meetings of the board of aldermen in municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act and requires the mayor to give the deciding vote in the case of a tie. Requires the board to hold no less than one regular meeting in each month on a date and at a place and hour to be fixed by ordinance. Requires the board of aldermen to select one of its members to be mayor pro tempore and requires him to preside at all meetings of the board in the absence of the mayor. Authorizes the board of aldermen to select one of its members to preside at a meeting of the board if both the mayor and mayor pro tempore are unable to attend a meeting of the board. Provides that the mayor pro tempore or a board member presiding instead of the mayor pro tempore has all rights and powers granted to the mayor with regard to presiding at a meeting of the board.

<u>Existing law</u> requires the mayor pro tempore to perform all duties of the mayor if the mayor is unable to carry out the duties of his office due to physical or mental disability, as determined by a licensed physician. Provides that the mayor pro tempore has no additional authority to perform the duties of the mayor except as provided in <u>existing law</u> or upon the written consent of the mayor.

Existing law provides that when a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor, the governing authority of the local governmental subdivision shall within 20 days appoint a person who meets the qualifications of the office to fill the vacancy. Authorizes the governor to fill the vacancy if the governing authority fails to do so within the 20-day period. Requires a special election to be called to fill the vacancy unless the vacancy occurs within a specified length of time from the regularly scheduled primary election for the office.

<u>New law</u> authorizes the mayor pro tempore, in the case of a vacancy in the office of the mayor, to perform the duties of the mayor until the vacancy is filled in accordance with <u>existing law</u>.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 16, 2014).

(Amends R.S. 33:405(A)(4); Adds R.S. 33:405(A)(5) and (6))