SLS 24RS-68

ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 15

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

FIRE PROTECTION. Provides for the governing authority of the St. George Fire Protection District to create the competitive position of deputy fire chief. (gov sig)

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 33:2541.7, relative to the municipal fire and police civil service; to provide
3	for the St. George Fire Protection District; to provide with respect to the position of
4	deputy fire chief; to authorize the governing authority of the city of St. George to
5	create the position of deputy fire chief; to provide that the position is appointed on
6	a competitive basis; to provide relative to the appointment, supervision, and
7	discharge of any person in any such position; to provide relative to the qualifications,
8	duties, and responsibilities for such position; to provide for an effective date; and to
9	provide for related matters.
10	Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.
11	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
12	Section 1. R.S. 33:2541.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
13	§2541.7. Deputy fire chief; city of St. George; competitive appointment
14	A.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
15	governing authority of the city of St. George may create, by resolution, the
16	position of deputy fire chief in accordance with the provisions of this Section.
17	The position shall be filled on a competitive basis from a list of eligibles as

Page 1 of 4 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

1	provided for in R.S. 33:2551, and the right of selection, appointment,
2	supervision, and discharge for such position shall be vested in the fire chief,
3	subject to approval of the appointing authority. The position of deputy fire chief
4	is not the same as the position of assistant fire chief.
5	(2) The governing authority shall establish the duties and responsibilities
6	of the deputy fire chief in the resolution creating the position. Such duties and
7	responsibilities may include direct supervision over all positions in the classified
8	service below the rank of fire chief.
9	B.(1) The deputy fire chief shall not have less than ten years of full-time
10	fire service experience with the St. George Fire Department.
11	(2) Any person who holds the position of deputy fire chief may, while
12	holding such position, apply for admission to the promotional examination for
13	the class next higher than that from which he was appointed as deputy fire
14	chief. However, the name and score of any deputy fire chief shall not be certified
15	to the appointing authority by the civil service board as eligible for appointment
16	to a position of the promotional class; his name and score shall be eligible for
17	certification, in accordance with the maximum period for which a name may
18	remain on the eligibility list in accordance with the provisions of this Part, only
19	upon demotion to a position of the class from which he was appointed as deputy
20	<u>fire chief.</u>
21	(3) Eligibility for admission to the competitive test for the position of
22	deputy fire chief shall be limited to members of the St. George Fire Department.
23	C. Any person who is appointed from a position in the classified fire
24	service to serve as deputy fire chief shall not forfeit his seniority accumulated
25	to the date of his appointment, and he shall continue to accumulate seniority in
26	accordance with the provisions of this Part during the time he holds the position
27	of deputy fire chief.
28	D. If a deputy fire chief is subjected to corrective or disciplinary action,
29	he shall have the same rights as any other employee in the municipal fire and

1	police civil service.
2	Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
3	signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
4	by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
5	vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
6	effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

SB	15	Original	
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DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

Edmonds

<u>Present constitution</u> creates a fire and police civil service system applicable to municipalities of over 13,000 in population and parishes and fire protection districts. Provides that the system is subject to Art. XIV, §15.1 of the 1921 constitution made statutory by the 1974 constitution.

<u>Present law</u> creates and provides for two fire and police civil service systems: (1) one applicable to any municipality which operates paid police and fire departments and which has a population of not fewer than 13,000 persons; and (2) one applicable to any parish, fire protection district, or municipality with a population of fewer than 13,000, but not fewer than 7,000 persons.

Proposed law retains present law.

<u>Present law</u> relative to both systems, provides that the classified service shall comprise every position, except those in the unclassified service to which the right of employee selection, appointment, supervision, and discharge is vested in the municipal government. Provides that the positions of fire chief and assistant fire chief shall be in the classified service. Provides further with respect to which positions are in the classified and unclassified service.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and additionally authorizes the governing authority of the city of St. George to create, by resolution, the classified position of deputy fire chief. Further provides that the right of selection from a competitive list of qualified applicants as well as the appointment, supervision, and discharge for the position is vested in the fire chief, subject to the approval of the appointing authority. Requires the governing authority to provide for the duties and responsibilities of the deputy fire chief in the resolution creating the position. Provides that the deputy fire chief may have direct supervision over all positions in the classified service below the rank of fire chief.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the deputy fire chief to have at least ten years of full-time fire service experience with the St. George Fire Dept.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that a person who holds the position of deputy fire chief may apply for admission to the promotional examination for the class next higher than that from which he was appointed as deputy fire chief; however, his name and score cannot be certified to the appointing authority unless he is demoted to a position of the class from which he was appointed deputy fire chief. Prohibits the fire chief from appointing any person to the position of deputy fire chief who is not a member of the St. George Fire Dept.

Proposed law provides that a deputy fire chief does not forfeit his seniority in the classified

Page 3 of 4 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions. service and continues to accumulate seniority during the time he is serving as deputy fire chief. Further provides that if a deputy fire chief is subjected to corrective or disciplinary action, he has the same rights as any other employee in the municipal fire and police civil service.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:2541.7)