

ACT No. 156

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 315

BY REPRESENTATIVES GOUDEAU, BACALA, BAGLEY, CARRIER, FONTENOT,
HORTON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, LARVADAIN, CHARLES OWEN, SELDERS,
AND WRIGHT

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION

2 Proposing to amend Article X, Sections 9 and 20 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to
3 authorize certain political activities on behalf of family members by commission
4 members, classified employees, and officers of certain civil service systems; to
5 provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members
8 elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of
9 Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to
10 amend Article X, Sections 9 and 20 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

11 §9. Prohibitions Against Political Activities

12 Section 9.(A) Party Membership; Elections. No member of a civil service
13 commission and no officer or employee in the classified service shall participate or
14 engage in political activity; be a candidate for nomination or election to public office
15 except to seek election as the classified state employee serving on the State Civil
16 Service Commission; or be a member of any national, state, or local committee of
17 a political party or faction; make or solicit contributions for any political party,
18 faction, or candidate; or take active part in the management of the affairs of a
19 political party, faction, candidate, or any political campaign.

1 (B) Activities Authorized. Notwithstanding Paragraph A of this Section, any
2 member of a civil service commission or officer or employee in the classified service
3 may: ~~except to exercise~~

4 (1) Exercise his right as a citizen to express his opinion privately, ~~to~~ serve
5 as a commissioner or official watcher at the polls, and ~~to~~ cast his vote as he desires.

6 (2) Support, during off duty hours, the election of a candidate for public
7 office who is his immediate family member. For purposes of this Subparagraph,
8 "immediate family" means a person's parent, his stepparent, his grandparent or
9 stepgrandparent, his spouse and his spouse's parent or stepparent, his child and his
10 child's spouse, his stepchild and his stepchild's spouse, his grandchild and his
11 grandchild's spouse, his stepgrandchild and his stepgrandchild's spouse, his sibling
12 and his sibling's spouse, his stepsibling and his stepsibling's spouse, and his half-
13 sibling and his half-sibling's spouse. For purposes of this Subparagraph, "support"
14 means attending campaign related events and appearing in campaign advertisements
15 and photographs.

16 (3) The provisions of Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph shall not apply to
17 employees of the registrars of voters or employees of the elections division of the
18 Department of State who are in the classified service.

19 ~~(B)~~(C) Contributions. No person shall solicit contributions for political
20 purposes from any classified employee or official or use or attempt to use his
21 position in the state or city service to punish or coerce the political action of a
22 classified employee.

23 ~~(C)~~(D) Political Activity Defined. As used in this Part, "political activity"
24 means an effort to support or oppose the election of a candidate for political office
25 or to support a particular political party in an election. The support of issues
26 involving bonded indebtedness, tax referenda, or constitutional amendments shall not
27 be prohibited.

28 * * *

1 §20. Political Activities

2 Section 20. Article XIV, Section 15.1, Paragraph 34 of the Constitution of
3 1921 is retained and continued in force and effect, except that an employee in the
4 classified service may support the election of a candidate for public office who is his
5 immediate family member. For purposes of this Section, "immediate family" and
6 "support" have the meanings provided in Section 9 of this Article.

7 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
8 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8,
9 2022.

10 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
11 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
12 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
13 follows:

14 Do you support an amendment to allow classified civil service employees to
15 support the election to public office of members of their own families?
16 (Amends Article X, Sections 9 and 20)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE