HLS 20RS-314 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 69

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREEN

JUDGES/JUSTICE OF PEACE: Provides relative to the term of office for justices of the peace

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 13:2582(A) and (B), relative to justices of the peace; to provide
3	relative to the term of office for justices of the peace; to eliminate the maximum age
4	limitation; to establish a limitation of terms of office; to extend the term of office for
5	justices of the peace; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 13:2582(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8	follows:
9	§2582. Justices of the peace; qualifications; election; term of office; nullity; persons
10	ineligible
11	A.(1) Each justice of the peace shall be of good moral character, a qualified
12	elector, a resident of the ward and district from which elected, and able to read and
13	write the English language correctly. Each person qualifying for the office of justice
14	of the peace shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by
15	the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by the date of qualification
16	to run for office in the year 2008. Each shall possess such other qualifications as are
17	provided by law.
18	(2)(a) Beginning in the year 2008, to qualify to run for the office of justice
19	of the peace, a person shall not have attained the age of seventy years by the date of

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1 qualification to run for office. A justice of the peace who attains seventy years of 2 age while serving a term of office shall be allowed to complete that term of office. 3 (b) The provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall not apply to 4 those justices of the peace who are serving as a justice of the peace or elected to the 5 office of justice of the peace on or before August 15, 2006. 6 B.(1) Justices of the peace shall be elected at the congressional election for 7 terms of six ten years by the qualified voters within the territorial limits of their 8 jurisdiction. They shall take office on the first day of January following election. 9 (2) No person who has been elected to serve as justice of the peace for more 10 than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms, that service being during a 11 term of office that began on or after January 1, 2021, shall be elected as justice of the 12 peace for a succeeding term. 13

## **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 69 Original

2020 Regular Session

Green

**Abstract:** Eliminates the maximum age limitation for justices of the peace, implements a three-term limitation, and extends the term of office from six to 10 years.

<u>Present law</u> provides that beginning in the year 2008, to qualify to run for the office of justice of the peace a person shall not have attained the age of 70 years by the date of qualification to run for office.

<u>Present law</u> also provides that a justice of the peace who attains 70 years of age while serving a term of office shall be allowed to complete that term of office.

<u>Proposed law</u> repeals the <u>present law</u> provision that, to qualify to run for the office of justice of the peace, a person shall not have attained the age of 70 years.

<u>Present law</u> requires each justice of the peace to be a resident of the ward and district from which elected and to be able to read and write the English language correctly.

<u>Present law</u> provides that justices of the peace shall be elected at the congressional election for terms of six years by the qualified voters within the territorial limits of their jurisdiction and shall take office on the first day of January following election.

<u>Proposed law retains present law</u> but changes the term of office  $\underline{\text{from}}$  six  $\underline{\text{to}}$  10 years for justices of the peace.

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<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits a person from serving as justice of the peace for more than two and a half terms in three consecutive terms if the term of office begins on or after Jan. 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 13:2582(A) and (B))