2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 88

### BY REPRESENTATIVE ADAMS

# MUNICIPAL/LAWRASON ACT: Provides for the appointment of the chief of police of Slaughter

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 33:381(C)(35), relative to the town of Slaughter; to provide for the filling of
3	the office of police chief by appointment; to provide for the time and method of
4	appointment and for the salary, term, duties, qualifications, and supervision of an
5	appointed police chief; and to provide for related matters.
6	Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
7	as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
8	Louisiana.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. R.S. 33:381(C)(35) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
11	§381. Municipal Officers
12	* * *
13	С.
14	* * *
15	(35) Notwithstanding Subsection B of this Section, the office of police chief
16	in the town of Slaughter shall be an appointive and not an elective office. The
17	mayor, with the approval of the board of aldermen, shall appoint the police chief.
18	If there is an elected chief in office on August 1, 2023, the mayor shall make the first
19	such appointment upon the expiration of the then current term or a vacancy in the
20	office for other reason; otherwise, he shall make the first appointment immediately.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	The board of aldermen, upon recommendation of the mayor, shall establish the
2	chief's salary and shall, by ordinance, establish the duties, responsibilities, and
3	qualifications of the office. The police chief's term of office shall be concurrent with
4	that of the appointing mayor and aldermen. The mayor shall, in accordance with
5	such ordinances, supervise and direct the administration of the office, and the chief
6	shall report directly to the mayor.
7	* * *

## 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	88	Original
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#### 2023 Regular Session

Adams

Abstract: Provides for the appointment, rather than election, of the chief of police of Slaughter

<u>Present law</u> provides that the officers of every municipality governed by the provisions of the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of aldermen form of government) shall be a mayor, aldermen, a chief of police, a tax collector, and a clerk. Generally provides for election, at large, of the police chief. Provides for appointment of a police chief in certain specified municipalities.

<u>Present law</u> alternatively provides that the office of police chief shall be filled by mayoral appointment with approval of the board of aldermen if a majority of the municipal electors approve the change. Provides for an election on the question only upon petition directed to the board of aldermen and signed by at least 25% of such electors. However, in a municipality with a population of 5,000 or fewer, authorizes calling such an election upon adoption of an ordinance by 2/3 vote of the governing authority.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the police chief in Slaughter shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen. Provides for initial appointment upon expiration of the current term or other vacancy if there is an elected chief in office on the effective date of <u>proposed law</u>; provides for immediate appointment if there is not an elected chief in office. Provides that the police chief's term is concurrent with that of the mayor and aldermen.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the board of aldermen, upon recommendation of the mayor, shall establish the salary of the office and shall, by ordinance, establish the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of the office. Requires the mayor to supervise and direct the administration of the office and provides that the chief reports directly to the mayor.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(35))