

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 76

BY SENATOR GATTI

CIVIL SERVICE. Constitutional amendment to remove prohibition against civil servants being able to participate or engage in political activities. (2/3-CA13s1(A))

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article X, Section 9 and Section 47, and to repeal Article X, Section 20 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to permissible political activity for civil service employees; to provide for political activities; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article X, Section 9 and Section 47 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§9. Prohibitions Against Political Activities

Section 9.(A) Party Membership; Elections. No member of a civil service commission and no officer or employee in the classified service shall ~~participate or engage in political activity~~; be a candidate for nomination or election to public office except to seek election as the classified state employee serving on the State Civil Service Commission; or be a member of any national, state, or local committee of a political party or faction ~~make or solicit contributions for any political party~~;

1 ~~faction, or candidate; or take active part in the management of the affairs of a~~
 2 ~~political party, faction, candidate, or any political campaign, except to exercise his~~
 3 ~~right as a citizen to express his opinion privately, to serve as a commissioner or~~
 4 ~~official watcher at the polls, and to cast his vote as he desires.~~

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

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

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14 §47. Prohibitions Against Political Activities

15 Section 47.(A) Party Membership; Elections. No member of the commission
 16 and no state police officer in the classified service shall ~~participate or engage in~~
 17 ~~political activity~~; be a candidate for nomination or election to public office except
 18 to seek election as the classified state police officer serving on the State Police
 19 Commission; or be a member of any national, state, or local committee of a political
 20 party or faction; ~~make or solicit contributions for any political party, faction, or~~
 21 ~~candidate; or take active part in the management of the affairs of a political party,~~
 22 ~~faction, candidate, or any political campaign, except to exercise his right as a citizen~~
 23 ~~to express his opinion privately, to serve as a commissioner or official watcher at the~~
 24 ~~polls, and to cast his vote as he desires.~~

25 (B) Contributions. No person shall ~~solicit contributions for political~~
 26 ~~purposes from any classified state police officer or use or attempt to use his position~~
 27 ~~to punish or coerce the political action of a classified state police officer.~~

28 (C) ~~Political Activity Defined.~~ As used in this Part, "political activity"
 29 ~~means an effort to support or oppose the election of a candidate for political office~~

