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## DIGEST

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Lopinto

HB No. 518

**Abstract:** Merges the functions and duties of the Board of Parole into the Board of Pardons and creates a committee on parole which shall be part of the Board of Pardons.

Present law provides for the Board of Pardons which consists of five members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, and one ex officio member. Present law further provides for the duties, functions, and powers of the Board of Pardons.

Proposed law amends present law and provides that each member of the Board of Pardons shall have at least five years actual experience in the field of penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, or a combination thereof. Provides an exception to proposed law requirements for any person serving as a member of the board on Aug. 1, 2012.

Present law provides for the Board of Parole which consists of seven members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, and one ex officio member. Present law also provides for the qualifications, salaries, powers, duties, functions, and training requirements of the Board of Parole, and further provides the procedures by which the Board of Parole shall function and the procedures the board shall follow when deciding whether to grant or deny parole.

Proposed law merges the duties, functions, powers, and training requirements of the Board of Parole into the Board of Pardons, creates a committee on parole which shall be part of present law Board of Pardons, and further provides as follows:

- (1) Provides that the committee on parole shall consist of the following persons:
  - (a) The five members of the Board of Pardons.
  - (b) Two at-large appointees, appointed by the governor, who shall only serve as members of the committee on parole and shall not serve as a member of the Board of Pardons.
- (2) Provides that the two at-large appointees shall be compensated as a member of the Board of Pardons, and shall possess at least five-years experience in the field of penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, or a combination thereof. Provides an exception to proposed law requirements for any member serving as a member of the board on Aug. 1, 2012.

- (3) Provides for the transfer of all powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and obligations of present law Board of Parole to proposed law committee on parole who shall exercise and perform each.
- (4) Provides that all administrative rules and regulations adopted by present law Board of Parole shall be considered valid and remain in effect until amended or repealed by proposed law committee on parole which shall adopt the rules necessary to implement proposed law.
- (5) Provides for the transfer of any pending and unfinished business of present law Board of Parole to proposed law committee on parole.
- (6) Provides that all references to present law Board of Parole shall be deemed to refer to proposed law committee on parole and provides that all legal proceedings shall be continued in the name of the committee on parole without the necessity for amendment of any document.
- (7) Provides that proposed law committee on parole shall be the successor in every way to present law Board of Parole, including all of the obligations and debts thereof.
- (8) Directs the La. State Law Institute to make technical changes to statutory laws as necessary to reflect the name changes provided for in proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 15:572.1(A)(1) and 574.2(A), (B), (C)(1), (2)(intro. para.), and (3), (D)(intro. para.), (4), (9), and (11), (E), (F)(1)(intro. para.), (G), and (H)(1) and (2))