

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRYANT AND CHASSION

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:2740.70.9, relative to the city of St. Martinville; to provide for the creation
3 of an economic development district within the city; to provide for the purpose,
4 boundaries, governance, and powers and duties of the district; to provide for district
5 funding; to provide for an effective date; 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. 33:2740.70.9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §2740.70.9. Greater St. Martinville Economic Development District

12 A. There is hereby created within the city of St. Martinville, as more
13 specifically provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate
14 which shall be known as the Greater St. Martinville Economic Development District,
15 referred to in this Section as the "district". The district shall be a political
16 subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

17 B.(1) The boundaries of the district shall encompass the following area:
18 south from the city limits on Main Street to the north city limits on Main Street. The
19 district shall also include any area annexed to Main Street.

20 (2) In addition to the area provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection,
21 the district shall include the following areas:

22 (a) The neighborhood of Ledoux and the Adam Carlson Park also known as
23 Southside Park.

24 (b) The historic city square, including Evangeline Boulevard, Catfish Alley,
25 and South New Market Street.

1 (c) East Bridge Street beginning at Main Street continuing east across Bayou
 2 Teche to the city limits.

3 (d) Port Street beginning at Main Street continuing northwest to Terrace
 4 Highway to the city limits.

5 C. The district is created to provide for cooperative economic and
 6 community development among the district, the city, the state, and the owners of
 7 property in the district, to enhance the development of and improvement to the
 8 property within the area of the district, to provide for cultural enrichment and
 9 preservation, to develop stable and more extensive employment opportunities, to
 10 improve infrastructure, and to promote the overall welfare of the citizens of the
 11 district.

12 D.(1) In order to provide for the orderly development of the district and
 13 effect the purposes of the district, the district shall be administered and governed by
 14 a board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board", composed of
 15 seven voting members and one nonvoting member as follows:

16 (a) The governing board of the St. Martin Economic Development Authority
 17 shall appoint one member who is a member of the authority.

18 (b) The governing board of the St. Martinville Historic District Commission
 19 shall appoint one member who is a member of the commission and a resident of the
 20 city of St. Martinville.

21 (c) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district
 22 encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one
 23 member.

24 (d) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses all or
 25 the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.

26 (e) The members of the governing authority of the parish of St. Martin who
 27 represent District Nos. 2 and 3 shall jointly appoint one member who is a resident of
 28 the city of St. Martinville.

29 (f) The mayor of the city of St. Martinville shall appoint two members who
 30 are residents of the city of St. Martinville. One member shall reside north of Port
 31 Street and one member shall reside south of Port Street.

1 (g) The mayor shall be a nonvoting member of the board.

2 (2) Appointed board members shall serve three-year terms after initial terms
3 as provided in this Paragraph. Three members shall serve an initial term of three
4 years; two shall serve an initial term of two years; and two shall serve an initial term
5 of one year, as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board.

6 (3) Any vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of the term for which
7 a member of the board has been appointed shall be filled for the remainder of the
8 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

9 (4) The board shall elect from its members a president, a vice president, a
10 secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. The duties
11 of the officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

12 (5) The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the
13 secretary of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the
14 official custody of the board.

15 (6) The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary
16 or advisable for conducting its business affairs. It shall hold regular meetings as
17 shall be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special meetings at such times and
18 places within the district as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

19 (7) A majority of the voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum
20 for the transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and
21 shall make them available through the secretary of the board to residents of the
22 district.

23 (8) The members of the board shall serve without compensation; however,
24 they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending to the business of the
25 board or the district.

26 E. The district, acting by and through its board, shall have and exercise all
27 powers of a political subdivision necessary or convenient for carrying out its objects
28 and purposes, including but not limited to the following:

29 (1) To sue and to be sued.

30 (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

1 (3) To adopt bylaws and rules and regulations.

2 (4) To receive by gift, grant, or donation any sum of money, property, aid,
 3 or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any political
 4 subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.

5 (5) To enter into contracts, agreements, or cooperative endeavors with the
 6 state and its political subdivisions or political corporations and with any public or
 7 private association, corporation, business entity, or individual.

8 (6) To appoint officers, agents, and employees; prescribe their duties; and
 9 fix their compensation.

10 (7) To acquire by purchase, gift, grant, donation, or lease property as may
 11 be necessary or desirable for carrying out the objectives and purposes of the board.

12 (8) To fund and host festivals, parades, and other arts and cultural activities.

13 (9) To perform any other necessary and ancillary acts to effectuate its
 14 functions, to perform its duties, or to give effect to its powers in accordance with this
 15 Section.

16 F.(1) In addition to the authority provided to the district by this Section, the
 17 district may levy and collect a sales and use tax within the boundaries of the district
 18 not to exceed one percent.

19 (2) The tax shall be imposed by resolution of the board and shall be levied
 20 upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, the distribution,
 21 and the storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property or digital
 22 products and upon the sales of services within the boundaries of the district, all as
 23 defined in R.S. 47:301 et seq. However, the resolution imposing the tax shall be
 24 adopted only after the proposition authorizing the levy of the tax is approved by a
 25 majority of the qualified electors of the district voting on the proposition at an
 26 election held for that purpose and conducted in accordance with the Louisiana
 27 Election Code. The purpose and rate of the tax shall be as provided in the resolution.

28 (3) Except where inapplicable, the procedure established by R.S. 47:301 et
 29 seq. shall be followed in the imposition, collection, and enforcement of the tax, and
 30 procedural details necessary to supplement those Sections and to make them

1 applicable to the tax authorized in this Subsection shall be fixed in the resolution
2 imposing the tax.

3 (4) The tax shall be imposed and collected uniformly throughout the
4 jurisdiction of the district.

5 (5) The tax levied pursuant to this Subsection shall be in addition to all other
6 taxes other political subdivisions within the jurisdiction of the district are authorized
7 to levy and collect.

8 (6) Any monies received by the district shall be used exclusively for the
9 benefit of the district.

10 G.(1)(a) In addition to any authority provided to the district by this Section,
11 the district shall have the authority provided to an economic development district by
12 Part II of Chapter 27 of this Title to implement tax increment financing and may
13 issue revenue bonds payable from an irrevocable pledge and dedication of up to the
14 full amount of tax increments available to an economic development district as
15 provided in this Section and in such Part to be derived from any project or projects
16 of the district as provided for in this Section, or parts of the projects, in an amount
17 to be determined as provided for in this Section, in order to finance or refinance any
18 project or projects, or parts thereof, which are consistent with the purposes of the
19 district.

20 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any portion of the
21 tax of any local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body may only be
22 used as a tax increment for tax increment financing purposes with the consent of the
23 local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body expressed by ordinance
24 or resolution and upon approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting at an
25 election held for that purpose and conducted in accordance with the Louisiana
26 Election Code.

27 (2) For purposes of the tax increment financing authority derived from Part
28 II of Chapter 27 of this Title which is conferred upon the district by this Section, and
29 only for purposes of this Section, "local governmental subdivision" as defined in

1 such Part shall include the parish of St. Martin and all political subdivisions within
2 the parish.

3 (3) For purposes of this Section, a tax increment shall consist of that portion
4 of any tax levied within the district by a local governmental subdivision or other tax
5 recipient body determined and pledged in the manner provided for in Part II of
6 Chapter 27 of this Title. However, if the proceeds of the tax have been expressly
7 dedicated to another purpose set forth in a proposition approved by the electorate of
8 the local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body, then the tax proceeds
9 may not be used as a tax increment until a proposition which authorizes the use is
10 submitted to and approved by the electorate.

11 H. The district shall dissolve and cease to exist one year after the date that
12 all bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness of the district, including
13 refunding bonds, are paid in full as to both principal and interest.

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
18 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____