

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 649**

**2025 Regular Session**

**Ventrella**

**DISTRICTS/RECREATION: Provides relative to parks and recreation districts in East Baton Rouge Parish**

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DIGEST

Present law creates the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (commission). Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the commission is the legal successor of the Baton Rouge Parish and Municipal Recreation Commission for the parish of East Baton Rouge, and succeeds to all of the rights and obligations of such recreation commission, and to the ownership of all of the property, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, owned by such former recreation commission, and to all of the rights, privileges, and concessions of every kind and nature invested in and exercised by such recreation commission, by the city of Baton Rouge, or the parish of East Baton Rouge.

Present law authorizes the commission to impose and collect from year to year taxes upon all of the taxable property carried on the assessment rolls of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Present law includes the membership of the board of commissioners.

Proposed law provides for a nine member board of commissioners composed of four appointed members and five ex officio members who shall be the mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, St. George, and Zachary.

Provides that each mayor may designate a person to serve in his place as a member of the commission who shall serve at the pleasure of the designating mayor; each ex officio mayor to serve during their term of office.

Proposed law requires that the four appointed members be qualified voters of the parish appointed by the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge for terms of three years. Requires that of these four appointed members, at least two shall be residents of the city of Baton Rouge; at least one shall be a resident of the unincorporated area of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law provides that following release of each federal decennial census, the commission may, by majority vote, reallocate these designated residency requirements to reflect the changes in population distribution across the parish and this reallocation shall apply prospectively and not alter the term of any sitting member.

Proposed law requires that commission vacancies be filled by the designating or appointing authority.

Requires that all commission members serve without compensation.

Proposed law requires that the commission shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a treasurer whose terms of office shall be one year. Five members shall constitute a quorum of the commission for all purposes. Requires that the commission have the power and authority to name and employ a person who shall be designated as superintendent of the commission, who shall not be a member of the commission, and who shall be ex officio secretary of the commission, and to prescribe and pay an annual salary to the superintendent.

Proposed law requires the commission to submit a written report annually to each municipality and to the state senators and representatives that represent these municipalities. Requires that the report provide the amount of funds received from taxpayers in each municipality; the amount of funds spent by BREC on facilities in each municipality; and the amount of money generated at BREC facilities in each municipality.

Proposed law provides that the terms of the members of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge in office on the effective date of this Act shall terminate on that date; however, the members shall remain in office until the commission members take office as provided in this Act. The members of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge shall take office as provided in this Act and shall serve terms of office as provided in this Act.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 33:4570.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill

1. Creates a nine member board of commissioners composed of four appointed members and five ex officio members who shall be the mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, St. George, and Zachary.
2. Provides for selection of the appointed members and their terms of office.
3. Provides for termination of existing board of commissioners and transfer to the new board on effective date of the Act.
4. Adds requirement for written annual financial report as to receipts and expenditures for municipalities.
5. Effective upon governor's signature.