
DIGEST

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 649

2025 Regular Session

Ventrella

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

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

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Remove provisions that create the Central Recreation District.
2. Remove provisions that exclude certain property from the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.
3. Change the membership of the commission.
4. Authorize each ex-officio mayor to designate a person to serve in his place on the commission.
5. Add voter and residency requirements for the appointed commissioners.
6. Authorize the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge to reallocate residency requirements under certain circumstances.
7. Provide for the expiration of the terms of current commission members.
8. Increase the quorum requirement for the commission from four to five members.
9. Require the commission to submit a written report annually to certain persons and public bodies regarding the funds of the commission.
10. Increase the membership of the Capital Area Transit System from nine to 10 by adding the president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1546 in Baton Rouge, La., or his designee.

11. Require that the union representative serving on the board be a retired union member.
12. Prohibit the union representative serving on the board from voting and participating in any executive session involving personnel issues.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Change the requirements of the annual report submitted by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law creates the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge as a subdivision of the state to plan, own, and operate public recreational and park facilities in the parish. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the commission is comprised of nine members, six of whom are appointed by the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge and three of whom are ex officio members. The three ex officio members are the mayor-president or his designee, a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish school board designated by the school board, and a member of the planning commission designated by the planning commission. Provides that four members constitute a quorum.

Proposed law changes the membership of the commission to provide for five ex officio members and four members appointed by the governing authority of city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge for three-year terms. Provides that the five ex officio members shall be mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, St. George, and Zachary. Requires that at least two of the appointed members be residents of the city of Baton Rouge, and at least one be a resident of an unincorporated area of East Baton Rouge Parish. Authorizes the commission, following the release of each federal decennial census, by majority vote, to reallocate these designated residency requirements to reflect changes in population distribution across the parish. Provides that the reallocation shall apply prospectively and shall not alter the term of any sitting member. Provides that five members constitute a quorum.

Proposed law provides that terms of the members of the commission in office on the effective date of proposed law shall terminate on that date; however, the members shall remain in office until the members take office pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law requires the commission to submit a written report annually to each municipality located within the jurisdiction of the commission and to the members of the La. Senate and House of Representative who represent each municipality located within the jurisdiction of the commission. Requires that the report provide the amount of funds received from taxpayers in each municipality,

the amount of funds spent by the commission on facilities in each municipality, and the amount of money generated at commission facilities in each municipality. Requires that the report be submitted annually within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year. Further requires the commission to timely submit all reports required by the legislative auditor.

Present law provides for the composition of the board of commissioners of the Capital Area Transit System which is comprised of nine members if there are no participating parishes other than East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law modifies present law by increasing the membership from nine to 10. Provides that the additional member shall be the president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1546 in Baton Rouge, La., or his designee. Further provides that the union representative shall be a retired union member and shall serve as a board member without voting privileges. Prohibits the union representative from participating in any executive sessions involving personnel issues.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:4570.1 and R.S. 48:1456(A); Adds R.S. 33:4570.3(D))