

SENATE BILL NO. 236

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 19:136 and 136.1(3) and R.S. 33:4761 and to enact R.S. 13:2575(B)(3)(g) and R.S. 19:136.2(D), relative to removal of dangerous buildings or structures in parishes and municipalities; to provide relative to blighted property in the city of Baton Rouge and in the parish of East Baton Rouge; to provide relative to blighted properties in municipalities within the parish; to provide relative to the authority to condemn, demolish, remove, or expropriate dilapidated and dangerous buildings or structures; to provide relative to administrative adjudication procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:2575(B)(3)(g) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2575. Blighted or abandoned property; public health, housing, fire code, building code and certain other ordinance violations; administrative adjudication; procedure; appeal; penalties

* * *

B.

* * *

(3) Each municipality or parish shall have the authority to empower the hearing officer with authority to:

* * *

(g) Condemn property determined to be blighted or abandoned and authorize the parish or municipality to demolish the blighted or abandoned property.

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Section 2. R.S. 19:136 and 136.1(3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 19:136.2(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART III-G. EXPROPRIATION OF ABANDONED OR BLIGHTED PROPERTY
BY A DECLARATION OF TAKING BY THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, ~~AND~~
THE CITY OF GRAMBLING, **AND THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**
AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES

§136. Purpose

In an effort to control the rising number of abandoned or blighted properties throughout the state and to slow urban blight, the legislature finds it necessary to implement a mechanism by which the city of New Orleans, ~~and~~ the city of Grambling, **and the parish of East Baton Rouge and its municipalities** are empowered to more readily obtain abandoned or blighted properties. The provisions of this Part are intended to provide a means by which governing authorities may revitalize economically depressed areas by placing abandoned or blighted properties back into the economic stream of commerce through the rehabilitation of the abandoned or blighted property. The procedure created by this Part shall be in addition to any other procedure authorized by law.

§136.1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Part, unless the context clearly otherwise requires or unless otherwise defined in specific portions of this Part, the following words or phrases shall have the respective meanings:

* * *

(3) "Governing authority" means the city of New Orleans or any assignee thereof which is authorized by the municipality to carry out the purpose of this Part, ~~or~~ the city of Grambling, **or the parish of East Baton Rouge or its municipalities.**

* * *

§136.2. Authority to expropriate; acquisition of abandoned or blighted property prior to judgment

* * *

1 **D. In the Parish of East Baton Rouge, notwithstanding any provision of**
 2 **law to the contrary, expropriation proceedings shall be initiated by the member**
 3 **of the governing authority representing the district in which the subject**
 4 **property is located.**

5 Section 3. R.S. 33:4761 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

6 §4761. Condemnation of buildings by all parishes and municipalities

7 **A.** The governing authority of any parish or municipality may condemn and
 8 cause to be demolished or removed any building or structure within the parish or
 9 municipality when it is in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the
 10 public welfare.

11 **B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in the city**
 12 **of Baton Rouge and parish of East Baton Rouge, the hearing officer appointed**
 13 **pursuant to R.S. 13:2575 and 2576 shall determine condemnations.**

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____