

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 247

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARRIER

DISTRICTS/ECONOMIC DEVEL: Creates the Allen Parish Economic Development District and abolishes the Allen Parish Tourist Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:2740.70.11 and to repeal R.S. 33:4574(B)(3), 4574.1.1(A)(3), and 4574.14,
3 relative to Allen Parish; to create the Allen Parish Economic Development District;
4 to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose, governance, and powers and duties of
5 the district; to provide for district funding; to provide relative to the Allen Parish
6 Tourist Commission; to provide relative to the governing board of the commission;
7 to provide relative to the compensation of board members; to provide relative to
8 taxes levied by the commission; to repeal provisions that provide for the creation of
9 the commission; to abolish the commission; to provide relative to the funds and
10 property of the commission; and to provide for related matters.

11 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
12 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
13 Louisiana.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.70.11 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

16 §2740.70.11. Allen Parish Economic Development District

17 A. There is hereby created within the parish of Allen, as more specifically
18 provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate which shall
19 be known as the Allen Parish Economic Development District, referred to in this
20 Section as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as
21 defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 B. The boundaries of the district shall encompass all of the territorial
2 jurisdiction of the parish of Allen.

3 C. The district is created to provide for cooperative economic and
4 community development among the district, the parish, the state, and the owners of
5 property in the district; to provide for tourism-related initiatives; to enhance the
6 development of and improvement to the property within the area of the district; to
7 develop stable and more extensive employment opportunities; to improve
8 infrastructure; and to promote the overall welfare of the citizens of the district.

9 D.(1) In order to provide for the orderly development of the district and
10 effect the purposes of the district, the district shall be administered and governed by
11 a board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board", composed of
12 five members as follows:

13 (a) The president of the Allen Parish Industrial Development Board.

14 (b) The president of the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce.

15 (c) The president of the Kinder Chamber of Commerce.

16 (d) The president of the governing authority of the parish of Allen.

17 (e) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district
18 encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district, or his designee.

19 (2) The members of the board shall serve during their terms of office. Any
20 designee shall serve at the pleasure of the designating authority.

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

24 (4) The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the
25 secretary of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the
26 official custody of the board.

27 (5) The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary
28 or advisable for conducting its business affairs. It shall hold regular meetings as
29 shall be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special meetings at such times and
30 places within the district as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

1 (6) A majority of the voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum
2 for the transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and
3 shall make them available through the secretary of the board to residents of the
4 district.

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

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

11 (1) To sue and to be sued.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (8) To perform any other necessary and ancillary acts to effectuate its
25 functions, to perform its duties, or to give effect to its powers in accordance with this
26 Section.

27 F.(1) The district may levy and collect a tax upon the paid occupancy of
28 hotel rooms and overnight camping facilities located within the district. The

1 occupancy tax shall not exceed three percent of the rent or fee charged for such
2 occupancy.

3 (2)(a) The term "hotel" as used in this Section shall have the same definition
4 as that contained in R.S. 47:301(6).

5 (b) The term "overnight camping facility" as used in this Section shall mean
6 any commercial establishment providing space and utilities in order to accommodate
7 recreational vehicles on a temporary, overnight basis.

8 (3) The person who exercises or is entitled to occupancy of the hotel room
9 or overnight camping facility shall pay the occupancy tax at the time the rent or fee
10 for occupancy is paid. "Person" as used in this Paragraph shall have the same
11 definition as that contained in R.S. 47:301(8).

12 (4) The occupancy tax shall be in addition to all taxes levied upon the
13 occupancy of hotel rooms and overnight camping facilities located within the city.

14 (5) The district may enter into a contract with any public entity authorized
15 to collect sales or use taxes, under terms and conditions it considers appropriate,
16 including payment of a reasonable collection fee for the collection of the occupancy
17 tax authorized in this Subsection.

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

20 G.(1) The board shall prepare or cause to be prepared a plan or plans
21 specifying the public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished,
22 constructed, or acquired for the district and shall conduct public hearings, publish
23 notice with respect thereto, and disseminate information as it, in the exercise of its
24 sound discretion, deems appropriate or advisable and in the public interest.

25 (2) Any plan may specify and encompass any public services, capital
26 improvements, and facilities which the parish of Allen is authorized to undertake,
27 furnish, or provide under the constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, and the
28 specified public services, improvements, and facilities shall be special and in
29 addition to all services, improvements, and facilities which the parish is then

1 furnishing or providing or may then or in the future be obligated to furnish or
2 provide within the district.

3 (3) Any plan shall include an estimate of the annual and total cost of
4 acquiring, constructing, or providing the services, improvements, or facilities set
5 forth therein.

6 H.(1) The board shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with the
7 Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

8 (2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant
9 to R.S. 24:513.

10 I. All state officers and agencies are authorized at their discretion to render
11 such services to the district within their respective functions as may be requested by
12 the district. In addition, the district and such agencies are authorized to enter into
13 such contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, or other agreements necessary or
14 convenient to carry out the purposes of this Section.

15 Section 2. R.S. 33:4574(B)(3), 4574.1.1(A)(3), and 4574.14 are hereby repealed in
16 their entirety.

17 Section 3. All remaining funds and property of the Allen Parish Tourist Commission
18 shall be transferred to the Allen Parish Economic Development District. The funds shall be
19 held in a separate account and shall be used for the purpose of attracting conventions and
20 tourists into the area and former jurisdiction of the commission.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 247 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session Carrier

Abstract: Creates the Allen Parish Economic Development District and abolishes the Allen Parish Tourist Commission.

Proposed law creates the Allen Parish Economic Development District as a political subdivision to provide for cooperative economic and community development among the district, the parish, the state, and the owners of property in the district; to provide for tourism-related activities to enhance the development of and improvement to the property within the area of the district; to develop stable and more extensive employment

opportunities, to improve infrastructure; and to promote the overall welfare of the citizens of the district. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be governed by a five-member board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Allen Parish Industrial Development Board.
- (2) The president of the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce
- (3) The president of the Kinder Chamber of Commerce.
- (4) The president of the governing authority of Allen Parish.
- (5) The member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district, or his designee.

Proposed law provides for the powers and duties of the district, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To sue and to be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
- (3) To adopt bylaws and rules and regulations.
- (4) To receive by gift, grant, or donation any sum of money, property, aid, or assistance from the U.S. the state of La., or any political subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.
- (5) To enter into contracts, agreements, or cooperative endeavors with the state and its political subdivisions or political corporations and with any public or private association, corporation, business entity, or individual.
- (6) To appoint officers, agents, and employees; prescribe their duties; and fix their compensation.

Proposed law authorizes the district to levy and collect a tax upon the paid occupancy of hotel rooms and overnight camping facilities. Provides that such tax shall not exceed 3% of the rent or fee charged for such occupancy.

Proposed law requires that the tax be paid by the person who exercises or is entitled to occupancy of the hotel room or overnight camping facility at the time the rent or fee for occupancy is paid. Authorizes the governing authority to contract with any public entity authorized to collect sales or use taxes for the collection of the occupancy tax. Requires that all monies be used exclusively for the benefit of the district.

Proposed law requires the board to prepare a plan(s) specifying services, public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished, constructed, or acquired which may be improvements, facilities, and services the parish is authorized to provide pursuant to the constitution and laws of the state.

Proposed law requires the board to conduct hearings and disseminate information as it deems appropriate or advisable. Requires that any plan developed by the board include an estimate of the annual and total cost of acquiring, constructing, or providing the services, improvements, or facilities.

Proposed law authorizes all state officers and agencies to render services to the district within their respective functions as may be requested by the district. Additionally authorizes the district and the agencies to enter into contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, or other agreements necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of proposed law.

Present law creates the Allen Parish Tourist Commission as a political subdivision of the state composed of all of the territory of Allen Parish. Provides that the commission is governed by a seven-member board of directors. Provides that each member of the board shall receive a per diem not to exceed \$50 for each meeting they attend. Additionally provides that the board members shall not be paid for more than 12 meetings in each year.

Present law authorizes the commission to levy and collect a tax upon the occupancy of hotel rooms, motel rooms, and overnight camping facilities within the jurisdiction of the commission, not to exceed 3%. Provides that the proceeds of the tax shall be used by the commission for the operation of the commission and for the purpose of attracting conventions and tourists into the area and jurisdiction of the commission, including but not limited to the authority to spend money for advertising, promotion, and publication of information, or for any other purposes authorized by law.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that all remaining funds and property of the commission shall be transferred to the Allen Parish Economic Development District. Requires the district to hold the funds in a separate account to be used for the purpose of attracting conventions and tourist into the area and former jurisdiction of the commission.

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.70.11; Repeals R.S. 33:4574(B)(3), 4574.1.1(A)(3), and 4574.14)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Add the provision of tourism-related initiatives to the functions of the district.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Authorize the district to levy an occupancy tax on overnight camping facilities.