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## DIGEST

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HB 629 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Jones

**Abstract:** Creates a municipal consortium, comprised of certain municipalities and Indian tribes that choose to participate, to promote goods produced by business enterprises owned and operated by residents of each participating municipality or members of each participating Indian tribe.

Proposed law creates a municipal consortium consisting of municipalities with a population of not more than 35,000 persons and Indian tribes that choose to participate. Provides that the purpose of the consortium is to promote goods produced by business enterprises owned and operated by residents of each participating municipality or tribe.

Proposed law provides that the consortium will be governed by a board of directors whose membership will be comprised of one member appointed by the governing authority of each participating municipality or tribe.

Proposed law provides that the powers and duties of the consortium include the following:

- (1) To develop a centralized market place, website, or other mechanism for facilitating the sale of locally produced goods to customers.
- (2) To expend donated funds.
- (3) To enter contracts and agreements.
- (4) To apply for and receive grant funding.
- (5) To adopt bylaws to govern its affairs and activities.

Proposed law authorizes the consortium to solicit and accept voluntary contributions and grants to further its purposes.

Proposed law prohibits the consortium from levying any tax, fee, or assessment on any member municipality.

(Adds R.S. 33:9711)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the consortium includes only municipalities and tribes that choose to participate.
2. Provide for governance of the consortium by one person representing each participating municipality and tribe rather than by a board that included two legislators, two representatives of Indian tribes, and was otherwise comprised as provided by municipal ordinance.
3. Provide that purposes of the district are focused on selling products produced by local companies.
4. Remove certain powers of the consortium, including the power to sue and be sued and to incur debt, and add certain other powers including power to develop a centralized market place, website, or other mechanism for facilitating the sale of locally produced goods to customers
5. Add prohibition on taxes, fees, and assessments.