
DIGEST

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HB 429 Original

2019 Regular Session

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Abstract: Authorizes parishes in which public postsecondary education institutions are located to create special districts to provide for cooperative economic development among the institution, parish, and other entities.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of a parish in which a public postsecondary education institution, a "college", is located to create an economic development district that incorporates property owned by the college. The purpose of such a district is to provide for cooperative economic and community development among the district, the college, the parish governing authority, the state, and the owners of property in the district. The parish governing authority shall establish the boundaries of a district in the ordinance creating it.

Proposed law provides that such a district is governed by a board of commissioners, comprised as follows:

- (1) The highest executive officer of the college appoints four persons.
- (2) The member of the parish governing authority whose district includes the official physical address of the college appoints one person.
- (3) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district includes the official physical address of the college appoints one person.
- (4) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district includes the official physical address of the college appoints one person.

Proposed law provides that commissioners serve five-year terms, with vacancies filled in the manner of the original appointment. However, if an appointment to fill a vacancy is not made within 60 days, the board shall appoint an interim successor to serve until the position is filled by the appointing authority. Authorizes removal of a commissioner for cause by a 3/4ths vote of the board. Provides that commissioners serve without compensation but authorizes reimbursement of expenses.

Proposed law provides that the official journal of such a district is the official journal of the parish where the domicile of the board is located. Provides that a district created pursuant to proposed law is a political subdivision of the state and has the powers of a political subdivision. Provides that such powers include the power:

- (1) To develop public improvement projects for the benefit of the respective college, either directly with the respective college or through one or more private foundations affiliated with the respective college, or both.
- (2) To exercise the powers granted to an economic development district established pursuant to present law. (Present law authorizes such a district to utilize tax increment financing. Further authorizes a district to levy ad valorem taxes up to five mills, sales taxes up to 2%, and hotel occupancy taxes up to 2%, all subject to voter approval unless there are no voters in the district.)
- (3) To exercise the powers granted to a community development district established pursuant present law. (Present law authorizes such a district to finance, construct, and operate various public facilities and authorizes the levy of special property assessments, based on proportionate benefit from the facility, to fund such activities.)

Proposed law provides procedures for the levy of any tax or assessment, including a requirement for voter approval unless there are no voters in the district.

Proposed law authorizes such a district to create subdistricts which are governed by the board of commissioners and have the same powers as the district.

Proposed law authorizes the district to issue bonds and to otherwise incur debt. Provides requirements and procedures therefor.

Proposed law provides that such a district shall dissolve and cease to exist upon the later to occur of either one year after the date on which all debt of the district is paid in full or 50 years from the creation of the district.

(Adds R.S. 33:9038.72)