
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

DIGEST

SB 237 Original

2022 Regular Session

Fields

Proposed law creates the Sagefield Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and providing for the overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district will be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Sagefield Residents Association (association).
- (2) Three members appointed by the president of the association.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member of the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the assessor for East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law provides for the district's powers and duties including the following:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
- (3) To receive and expend funds from an authorized parcel fee and in accordance with an adopted budget.
- (4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.
- (5) To provide or enhance security patrols in the district and to provide for improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee on each improved and unimproved parcel within the district. Provides that the amount of the fee will be in a duly adopted resolution of the board and will not exceed \$300 per year.

Proposed law provides that the term of the fee expires at the time provided in the proposition authorizing the fee, not to exceed 10 years, but authorizes renewal of the fee for a term not to exceed

10 years, also subject to voter approval. Defines "parcel" as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a "condominium parcel" as defined in present law.

Proposed law provides that the fee will be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee will be added to the parish tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Requires the tax collector to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection, and authorizes the district to enter into an agreement with the tax collector to authorize the retention of a collection fee, not to exceed 1% of the amount collected.

Proposed law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the La. Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district will be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law provides that it is the purpose and intent of proposed law that the additional law enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized by proposed law will be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel and services provided in the district by publicly funded law enforcement agencies.

Proposed law provides that if the district ceases to exist, all district funds will be transmitted to the city-parish to be used for law enforcement purposes in the area which comprised the district.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.35)