
DIGEST

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HB 732 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Duplessis

Abstract: Relative to the Louis Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz District in the city of New Orleans, provides relative to the governance and powers and duties of the district.

Present law establishes the Louis Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz District. Present law provides that the district is authorized to promote, encourage, and enhance the park and all areas within the boundaries of the district through renewed commerce, industry, and for the utilization and development of the human resources of the area. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that the district is a political subdivision of the state.

Present law provides that the district's governing board is composed of 25 members as follows:

- (1) Four members appointed by the Treme Community Improvement Assoc., Inc.
- (2) One member appointed by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Inc.
- (3) One member appointed by the Congo Square Foundation, Inc.
- (4) One member appointed by the New Orleans Musicians Organized, Inc.
- (5) One member appointed by the Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Development, Inc.
- (6) One member appointed by the St. Bernard/N. Claiborne Merchants Assoc.
- (7) One member appointed by the Treme Community Education Program from a list of nominations by the Treme Brass Band, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, and the New Birth Brass Band.
- (8) One member appointed by the Treme Community Education Program.
- (9) One member appointed by the Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collective.
- (10) One member appointed by the Treme Community Education Program, who shall be a tavern or jazz club operator.

- (11) One member appointed from a Mardi Gras Indians Tribe by the Tamborine and Fan Club, Inc.
- (12) One member appointed by the UMOJA.
- (13) One member appointed by the Tamborine and Fan Club.
- (14) The state senator from the 4th Senatorial District or his designee.
- (15) The state representative from the 96th Representative District or his designee.
- (16) The state senator from the 3rd Senatorial District or his designee.
- (17) The state representative from the 93rd Representative District or his designee.
- (18) One member appointed by the Downtown Development District.
- (19) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.
- (20) The governor or his designee.
- (21) The city council member from District C or his designee.
- (22) One member appointed by the New Orleans Music Commission.

Proposed law provides instead that the board is composed of 17 members as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the governing board of the Greater Treme Consortium, Inc.
- (2) One member appointed by the governing board of Save Our Soul Coalition, Inc.
- (3) One member appointed by the governing board of The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Inc.
- (4) One member appointed jointly by the governing boards of the Claiborne Cultural Innovation District and the Claiborne Merchants & Business Association.
- (5) One member appointed by the governing board of the Historic Faubourg Treme Assoc.
- (6) One member appointed by the governing board of French Quarter Citizens, Inc.
- (7) One member appointed by the governing board of the Congo Square Preservation Society.
- (8) One member appointed by the governing board of the New Orleans Black Masking Indian Cooperative.

- (9) One member appointed by the governing board of the Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collective.
- (10) One member appointed by the governing board of the New Orleans Culture Preservation Committee.
- (11) One member appointed by the governing board of Tamborine and Fan, Inc.
- (12) One member appointed by the governing board of the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic and Assistance Foundation.
- (13) The member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district or his designee.
- (14) 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.
- (15) The member of the U.S. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district or his designee.
- (16) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.
- (17) The member of the governing authority of the city of New Orleans whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district or his designee.

Present law requires board members to be residents of Orleans Parish. Provides that board members serve three-year terms. Proposed law retains present law but provides that terms are staggered. Further provides that the terms of the members of the board in office on the effective date of proposed law shall terminate on that date.

Present law grants the district the power to cooperate with and to engage in cooperative endeavors with other persons and entities as provided by the state constitution (Art. 7, Sec. 21(H)). Additionally grants the district the power to seek the issuance of revenue bonds through appropriate public entities. Provides that provisions of present law shall not be interpreted so as to grant the district any powers with regard to land use, zoning, or taxation.

Proposed law repeals present law and grants the district all powers of a political subdivision for the purpose of funding the district and carrying out its objects and purposes, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To incur debt.
- (2) To sue and be sued.
- (3) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

- (4) To adopt bylaws and rules and regulations.
- (5) To receive by gift, grant, donation, or otherwise 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.
- (6) 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.

Present law grants certain powers to the board in order to provide for the growth and development of the district, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To seek the designation of the park as a national park in any way it deems appropriate, including communication and cooperation with any state or federal authority or commission.
- (2) To make recommendations concerning natural and environmental factors; trends of industrial, population, or other developments; the habits and lifestyles of the people of the district; the relation of land use within the district as it relates to the city as a whole; and areas for the concentration of wholesale, retail, business, and other commercial uses.
- (3) To make recommendations concerning the need for and the proposed general location of public and private works and facilities, including but not limited to pollution control facilities.
- (4) To make or assist in studies and investigations of the resources of the district and the existing and emerging problems of industry, commerce, transportation, population, housing, and public service affecting the redevelopment of the district.
- (5) To prepare and from time to time revise inventory listings of the district's resources and of the major public and private works and facilities of all kinds which are deemed necessary to the redevelopment of the district.
- (6) To cooperate and confer with and upon request supply information to federal agencies and to local and regional agencies created pursuant to a federal program or which receive federal support and to cooperate and confer with economic development authorities in and outside of the state.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Adds R.S. 25:850.21; Repeals R.S. 33:2740.26)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and

Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Remove provisions that provide that the district is created for the purpose of acquiring ownership, leasing, or entering into a management agreement.
2. Remove authority granted to the district to fix the compensation of officers, agents, and employees.