

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 282 (HB 624)

2023 Regular Session

Butler

New law creates and provides for the Evangeline Economic Development Authority as a political subdivision in Evangeline Parish for the purpose of performing the functions of an economic and industrial development agency, including but not limited to public relations, advertising, marketing, government relations, financial assistance, industrial and economic research, and industrial programming and solicitation. Provides that the boundaries of the district encompass all of the territory in Evangeline Parish.

New law provides that the district shall be governed by an 11-member board of commissioners composed as follows: five members appointed jointly by the mayors of the municipalities in Evangeline Parish; two members appointed by the governing authority of Evangeline Parish; one member appointed by the Evangeline Parish School Board; one member appointed by the governing board of the Evangeline Parish Chamber of Commerce; one member appointed jointly by the governing boards of the two hospital providers located in Evangeline Parish; and one member appointed by South Louisiana Community College. Provides that members serve staggered four-year terms.

New law provides for the district's powers and duties. Authorizes the board to establish an advisory board to assist in the task of economic and industrial development.

New law requires the board to prepare a plan(s), specifying the public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished, constructed, or acquired for the district and to conduct public hearings, publish notice, and disseminate information as it deems appropriate or advisable.

New law provides that any plan may specify and encompass any public services, capital improvements, and facilities which may be services, capital improvement, and facilities provided by Evangeline Parish through its agencies, commissions, and instrumentalities. Requires any plan to include an estimate of the annual and total cost. Further requires the board to submit the plan to the parish governing authority and requires the parish governing authority to review and consider the plan. Provides that the board need not receive approval of the parish governing authority prior to implementing the plan.

New law authorizes the district to levy a sales and use tax, subject to voter approval. Requires the district to hold any election regarding the levy of the tax on a date provided for in existing law relative to gubernatorial or congressional primary elections. Provides that the tax rate shall not exceed 1%.

New law authorizes the district to issue revenue bonds payable from "tax increments" available to an economic development district as provided in new law and in existing law (Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33) which is derived from any project or projects of the district. Prohibits the use of tax increments without the consent of the particular local governmental subdivision or tax recipient body and without voter approval. Requires the district to hold any election regarding the use of tax increments on a date provided for in existing law relative to gubernatorial or congressional primary elections.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.70.3)