

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 306 (HB 335)

2023 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

Southside Economic Development District of the City of Monroe

Existing law authorizes the governing authority of the city of Monroe, subject to the approval of the mayor, to create a special district known as the Southside Economic Development District of the City of Monroe. Provides for district boundaries.

Existing law provides that the district is governed by a board of commissioners which includes members appointed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the mayor.
- (2) Three members appointed by the city council.
- (3) One member appointed by the city council from a list of nominees submitted by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce to the council on or before Aug. 1, 2001.

Prior law provided for two members appointed by the city council from a list of nominees submitted by the African-American Chamber of Commerce to the council on or before Aug. 1, 2001.

New law increases the membership of the board from seven to 10 and makes changes as follows:

- (1) Changes the entity that submits a list of nominees to the city council prior to the council making two of its appointments from the African-American Chamber of Commerce to the Monroe Regional Black Chamber.
- (2) Adds a member appointed by the state senator for District No. 34.
- (3) Adds a member appointed by the state representative for District No. 16.
- (4) Adds a member appointed by the state representative for District No. 17.

New law provides that members may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the city council.

North Lake Charles Economic Development District

New law creates the North Lake Charles Economic Development District as a political subdivision of the state. Provides for district boundaries.

New law provides that the district is governed by a five-member board composed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the Lake Charles City Council.
- (2) One member appointed by the state representative for the House of Representatives district which encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (3) One member appointed by the state senator for the Senate district which encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the governing authority of Calcasieu Parish from a list of three names submitted jointly by the members of the governing authority who represent Dist. Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 9.
- (5) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of Lake Charles.

Provides that members serve staggered three-year terms.

New law requires the board to prepare a plan(s) specifying public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished, constructed, or acquired which may be improvements, facilities, and services provided by the city through its agencies, commissions, and instrumentalities, subject to the approval of the Lake Charles City Council.

New law requires the board to conduct hearings and disseminate information as it deems appropriate or advisable. Further requires that any plan developed by the board include an estimate of the annual and total cost.

New law requires that the board submit the plan to the city planning commission which shall review it for consistency with the comprehensive plan for the city. Requires that the planning commission submit a written opinion on the plan to the city council. Requires the city council to submit a written recommendation to the board as to whether the board should approve the plan. Requires the board to review the recommendation but authorizes the board to adopt or reject the recommendation.

New law further provides for development of a plan regarding the employment of professional consultants, experts, and advisors. Authorizes the board to submit the plan directly to the city council. Requires the city council to submit a written recommendation as to whether the board should approve the plan. Requires the board to review the recommendation but authorizes the board to adopt or reject the recommendation.

New law provides further with respect to the powers and duties of the district. Provides that the district shall not have any power of expropriation.

New law authorizes the district to levy a sales and use tax, subject to voter approval, and subject to the approval of the Lake Charles City Council. 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 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.

(Amends R.S. 33:2740.51(D)(1)(intro. para.), (d) and (e); Adds R.S. 33:2740.51(D)(1)(f) and (g) and (3) and 2740.70.3)