

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 365

BY SENATOR HARRIS

SPECIAL DISTRICTS. Provides for the French Quarter Management District. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 25:799(A)(2)(a) and (J)(1) and to enact R.S. 25:799(G)(16) and
3 (17), and (K)(1)(c), relative to the French Quarter Management District in Orleans
4 Parish; to provide relative to the purpose, powers, and governance of the district; to
5 provide with respect to the functions of the district; to provide for an effective date;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 25:799(A)(2)(a) and (J)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and
10 R.S. 25:799(G)(16) and (17), and (K)(1)(c) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §799. Creation of the French Quarter Management District

12 A. * * *

13 (2) The district is created to provide the following functions:

14 (a) Enhancing public safety, **reducing homelessness, infrastructure**
15 **improvements**, and sanitation within the district by financing supplemental safety
16 and sanitation services as the board deems appropriate.

17 * * *

1 G. Specifically included, though not limited hereby, under the purposes,
2 objects, and powers of the district are the following within the district:

3 * * *

4 **(16) Enhancing and providing dedicated public safety, reducing**
5 **homelessness, infrastructure enhancement, and sanitation within the district by**
6 **financing supplemental safety and sanitation services.**

7 **(17) Providing supplemental resources for the enforcement of laws and**
8 **regulations that relate to the quality of life for tourists, residents, and businesses**
9 **within the district.**

10 * * *

11 J. Budget. (1) The board of commissioners shall adopt an annual budget in
12 accordance with the Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301. **Fifteen percent**
13 **of the annual budget shall be dedicated to public safety, reducing the**
14 **homelessness and/or infrastructure enhancements.**

15 * * *

16 K. Miscellaneous. (1) To the extent not prohibited by applicable law, the
17 district may:

18 * * *

19 **(c) Utilize the city of New Orleans, as well as contract with other entities,**
20 **for purposes of procuring services for the district.**

21 * * *

22 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
23 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
24 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
25 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
26 effective on the day following such approval.

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

Present law created the French Quarter Historic Management District. Provides that the district shall be a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the state.

Present law provides that the district is created to provide the following functions:

- (1) Enhance public safety and sanitation within the district by financing supplemental safety and sanitation services.
- (2) Provide supplemental resources for the enforcement of laws and regulations that relate to the quality of life for tourists, residents, and businesses within the district.
- (3) Engage in strategic planning, business and commercial development activities, administering capital improvement funds, and administering programs.
- (4) Take such actions as may be advisable to enhance commercial, civic, and cultural activity within the district, to promote and aid in the conservation and preservation of the district's quaint historic nature, character, qualities, and architecture, to foster quality events and quality of life in the district, to restore regional character to the district, to attract locals and tourists to visit the district, to facilitate and promote the development and improvement of public infrastructure within the district, and to encourage new residents to live in the district.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the reduction of homelessness and infrastructure improvements to the functions of the district.

Present law provides for the following purposes, objects, and powers of the district:

- (1) Creating and maintaining public restroom facilities.
- (2) Beautifying the district, improving its streetscapes and the quality of its frontage, and making cosmetic improvements within the district.
- (3) Enhancing the district's walkability and pedestrian-friendly environment.
- (4) Revitalizing and nurturing cultural and historical features, preservation, and cultural tourism.
- (5) Providing facade grants and incentives to utilize vacant buildings, upper floors, and land.
- (6) Addressing transportation concerns.
- (7) Facilitating parking and mobility planning, strategies, and management.
- (8) Improving commercial and residential vitality and developing and implementing commercial planning, marketing, and recruiting strategies.
- (9) Facilitating lighting and signage upgrades, repairs, and replacements.
- (10) Aiding in the repair and upkeep of sidewalks, streets, and related infrastructure.
- (11) Aiding in video camera installation and monitoring.
- (12) Recruiting public amenities and services.
- (13) Fostering visually stimulating and quality pedestrian experiences.
- (14) Fostering regional and district character.

- (15) Facilitating the removal and prevention of graffiti.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the following purposes, objects, and powers of the district:

- (1) Enhancing and providing dedicated public safety, reducing homelessness, infrastructure enhancement and sanitation within the district by financing supplemental safety and sanitation services.
- (2) Providing supplemental resources for the enforcement of laws and regulations that relate to the quality of life for tourists, residents, and businesses within the district.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that 15% of the annual budget shall be dedicated to public safety, reducing the homelessness and/or infrastructure enhancements.

Proposed law provides that the district may utilize the city of New Orleans, as well as contract with other entities, for purposes of procuring services for the district.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 25:799(A)(2)(a) and (J)(1); adds R.S. 25:799(G)(16) and (17), and (K)(1)(c))