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

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SB 201 Engrossed                                      DIGEST                                      2024 Regular Session                                      Coussan

Present law established the Cajundome Commission in 1987 pursuant to an intergovernmental contract between the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) and the city of Lafayette under authority of present law, as a joint commission and body corporate to control and operate the area collectively known as the Cajundome. Furthermore, the commission was continued through two subsequent intergovernmental contracts and three extensions.

Present law recognized the commission by adding it to the list of employers participating in the MERS.

Present law provides that the current intergovernmental contract providing for the commission expires on July 31, 2024.

Proposed law continues the existence of the commission upon expiration of the intergovernmental contract, and to prevent any disruption to the management, operation, or maintenance of the Cajundome or the rights, benefits, debts, or obligations of the presently existing commission.

Proposed law provides that effective immediately upon the expiration of the current intergovernmental contract, the commission is statutorily continued as a political subdivision of the state.

Proposed law provides that in all respects except as otherwise expressly provided in proposed law, the commission shall continue in existence as presently constituted, with and subject to all rights, benefits, debts, and obligations in existence as of the date of expiration of the current intergovernmental contract, without interruption.

Proposed law provides that for purposes of present law, any project undertaken by the commission shall be considered to be owned and operated by the state.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall be domiciled in the parish of Lafayette.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall be governed by a board of commissioners composed of five persons appointed as follows:

- (1) Two by the president of the ULL, with one appointment being a minority.
- (2) Two by the Mayor-President of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government.
- (3) One by the Lafayette City Council.

Proposed law provides that the board shall elect, from its membership, a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary-treasurer.

Proposed law provides that no contract shall be approved or any financial obligation incurred by or on behalf of the commission unless approved by a majority vote of the members of the board; provided, however, that the board may delegate to its chair or to the commission's director the authority to enter into contracts or incur financial obligations that the board determines to be in the commission's best interest for the efficient operation of the Cajundome.

Proposed law provides that members of the board shall serve without compensation; however, they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending to the business of the board or the commission.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall develop, manage, operate, and maintain the Cajundome.

Proposed law provides that the commission, through its board, may sue and be sued in the courts of its domicile and service of process shall be made on the chair of the board or, in the absence of the chair, upon the vice chair.

Proposed law provides that the commission, acting through its board, shall have all authority and power to effectuate the purposes of the commission, including but not limited to the following rights and powers:

- (1) To acquire, purchase, lease as lessee, and hold and use any property that is necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the commission and to sell, lease as lessor, transfer, dispose of, or encumber any property or interest acquired by the commission.
- (2) To develop, manage, operate, and maintain the Cajundome.
- (3) To execute contracts of any sort with public or private entities to effectuate the provisions of proposed law.
- (4) To execute contracts or agreements with any person, corporation, association, or other entity, for or relating to the use of the Cajundome's facilities, services, and equipment.
- (5) To fix, collect, consent to, and revise rates, charges, rentals, and other terms for the use of the Cajundome's facilities, services, and equipment as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (6) To establish rules and regulations for the conduct of the commission's affairs.
- (7) To accept gifts, grants, and donations of property and money.
- (8) To cooperate with the state of La. or any political subdivision, department, agency, or corporation thereof for the development, operation, or maintenance of the Cajundome.

- (9) To contract with, employ, and fix the compensation and terms of employment of agents or employees as may be necessary or appropriate to develop, manage, operate, and maintain the Cajundome.
- (10) To pledge all or any part of its revenues for any lawful purpose to effectuate the provisions of proposed law.
- (11) To incur debt, issue bonds, and pledge payment of bonds issued by the commission for any authorized purpose pursuant to present law.

Proposed law provides that all policies, procedures, delegations, authorizations, contracts, and obligations of the board or commission in effect on the effective date of proposed law shall continue in full force and effect unless and until amended by future action of the board.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 51:2122-2123)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill

1. Requires one of the appointments by the president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to be a minority.
2. Increases the members appointed by the Mayor-President of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government from one to two.
3. Provides delegation authority from the board to its chair or to the commission's director to enter into contracts or incur financial obligations that the board determines to be in the commission's best interest for the efficient operation of the Cajundome.