

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governing authority of Concordia Parish to conduct a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a new form of parish government that includes a parish president.

WHEREAS, the most common form of government for parishes in the state of Louisiana is the police jury system; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:1221 generally requires every parish governing authority in the state of Louisiana organized under the police jury system form of government to establish, by ordinance, the size of their governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:1221 also provides that no police jury shall have fewer than five members nor more than fifteen members, or the number of members authorized for that jury on or before May 13, 1974, whichever is greater; however parishes with a population of ten thousand persons or less may establish the size of the body at not fewer than three members; and

WHEREAS, police jurors are elected for terms of four years; and

WHEREAS, Article 6, Section 7 of the state constitution provides that parishes governed by a police jury system shall have the powers authorized by the constitution or by law and are specifically authorized to exercise any power and perform any function necessary, requisite, or proper for the management of their affairs, not denied by their charter or by general law, if a majority of the electors voting in an election held for that purpose vote in favor of the proposition that the respective governing authority may exercise such general powers; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:1236 provides generally for the powers of parish governing authorities, including but not limited to: making regulations for their own government; appointing all officers necessary to carry into execution the parish regulations; making and repairing roads, bridges, causeways, dikes, dams, levees, and highways; providing support for the poor and necessitous within their respective parishes by taxation or otherwise; passing ordinances and regulations which they deem necessary to govern and regulate the laying out of subdivisions, resubdivisions, roads, streets, alleys, ways, subways, viaducts, bridges, parks, parkways, boulevards, playgrounds, community centers, and other public buildings, grounds, or improvements; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Parish is currently governed by a police jury form of government, and the governing authority is comprised of nine members; and

WHEREAS, discussions have taken place regarding the establishment of a new form of government that will provide more representation for the people of the parish and enhance the operations of and create more efficiency for the members of the governing authority and the administrative staff of the parish; and

WHEREAS, suggestions have been made regarding the establishment of a new form of government, including the adoption of a home rule charter and the election of a parish president; and

WHEREAS, Article 6, Section 5 of the state constitution authorizes parishes to draft, adopt, or amend a home rule charter and to appoint a commission to prepare and propose a charter or an alternate charter, or to call an election to elect such a commission; and

WHEREAS, Article 6, Section 5 of the state constitution requires the parish governing authority to call an election to elect such a commission when presented with a petition signed by not less than ten percent of the electors or ten thousand electors, whichever is fewer, who live within the boundaries of the affected subdivision, as certified by the registrar of voters; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:1395 et seq. provides additional procedures regarding the adoption of a home rule charter and the establishment of a home rule charter commission; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the residents of Concordia Parish have proper representation in the affairs of the parish and that the parish government is operated in the most efficient manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governing authority of Concordia Parish to conduct a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a new form of parish government that includes administration by a parish president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governing authority of Concordia Parish and the members of the Concordia Parish legislative delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES