

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 561

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:9038.77, relative to cooperative economic development in the city of New  
3 Orleans; to create an economic development district for the improvement and  
4 maintenance of the Lafitte Greenway; to provide for the governance, boundaries, and  
5 powers and duties of the district, including the authority to engage in tax increment  
6 financing; and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 33:9038.77 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §9038.77. Lafitte Greenway Development District

13 A. The Lafitte Greenway Development District, a special district and  
14 political subdivision of the state, hereinafter referred to as the "district" is hereby  
15 created in the city of New Orleans.

16 B. The district is comprised of the area within the following perimeter:  
17 Beginning at the intersection of Bienville Street and Basin Street, then along Basin  
18 Street as it becomes Orleans Avenue and continuing to its intersection with City Park  
19 Avenue, then following City Park Avenue to its intersection with Buddy Bolden  
20 Place connecting to the intersection of Clayton Avenue and General Diaz Street, then  
21 following General Diaz Street to its intersection with Greenwood Drive, then  
22 following Greenwood Drive to its intersection with Canal Boulevard, then following  
23 Canal Boulevard (inclusive of all properties that have frontage along Canal  
24 Boulevard) until its intersection with City Park Avenue, then following City Park

1 Avenue to its intersection with Bienville Avenue, then following Bienville Avenue  
 2 to the point of beginning.

3 C. The district is created to provide for cooperative economic development  
 4 between the district, the city of New Orleans, and the owners of businesses and other  
 5 property within the district in order to provide funding related to improvement and  
 6 maintenance of the Lafitte Greenway as well as to fund improvements and other  
 7 public benefits in greenway-adjacent communities, as determined by the board of  
 8 commissioners of the district.

9 D. Governance. (1) In order to provide for the orderly development of the  
 10 district and effectuation of the purposes of the district, the district shall be  
 11 administered and governed by a board of commissioners as follows:

12 (a) The state representative who represents House District No. 23 or his  
 13 designee.

14 (b) The state representative who represents House District No. 93 or his  
 15 designee.

16 (c) The state representative who represents House District No. 94 or his  
 17 designee.

18 (d) The state senator who represents Senate District No. 4 or his designee.

19 (e) The state senator who represents Senate District No. 5 or his designee.

20 (f) The New Orleans City Council member who represents District A or his  
 21 designee.

22 (g) The New Orleans City Council member who represents District B or his  
 23 designee.

24 (h) The New Orleans City Council member who represents District C or his  
 25 designee.

26 (i) The New Orleans City Council member who represents District D or his  
 27 designee.

28 (j) The mayor of the City of New Orleans or his designee.

29 (k) The lieutenant governor of Louisiana or his designee.

1           (2) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the  
2           transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall make  
3           them available for inspection through the board's secretary. The minute books and  
4           archives of the district shall be maintained by the board's secretary. The monies,  
5           funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the official custody of the board.

6           (3) The board shall adopt bylaws and prescribe rules to govern its meetings.  
7           The members of the board shall serve without salary or per diem and shall be entitled  
8           to reimbursement for reasonable, actual, and necessary expenses incurred in the  
9           performance of their duties.

10          (4) The domicile of the board shall be established by the board at a location  
11          within the city of New Orleans.

12          (5) The board shall elect from its own members a president and secretary,  
13          whose duties shall be common to the offices or as may be provided by bylaws  
14          adopted by the district. The board shall hold regular meetings and may hold special  
15          meetings as provided in the bylaws.

16          E. In addition to the taxing, tax increment finance, and bonding authority  
17          provided for in Subsection F of this Section, the district, acting by and through its  
18          board of commissioners, shall have and exercise all powers of a political subdivision  
19          and a special district necessary or convenient for the carrying out of its objects and  
20          purposes including but not limited to the following:

21                  (1) To sue and to be sued.

22                  (2) To adopt bylaws and rules and regulations.

23                  (3) To receive by gift, grant, or donation any sum of money, property, aid,  
24                  or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any political  
25                  subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.

26                  (4) To enter into contracts, agreements, or cooperative endeavors with the  
27                  state and its political subdivisions or political corporations and with any public or  
28                  private association, corporation, business entity, or individual.

29                  (5) To appoint officers, agents, and employees, prescribe their duties, and fix  
30                  their compensation.

1           (6) To acquire by gift, grant, purchase, or lease such property as may be  
2           necessary or desirable for carrying out the objectives and purposes of the district and  
3           to mortgage and sell such property.

4           (7) In its own name and on its own behalf, to incur debt and to issue bonds,  
5           notes, certificates, and other evidences of indebtedness. For this purpose the district  
6           shall be deemed and considered to be an issuer for purposes of R.S. 33:9037 and  
7           shall, to the extent not in conflict with this Section, be subject to the provisions of  
8           R.S. 33:9037.

9           (8) To establish funds or accounts as necessary for the conduct of its affairs.

10          (9) To do all things reasonably necessary to accomplish the purposes of this  
11          Section.

12          F. To provide for the costs of a project to fund development and maintenance  
13          of the ~~greenway~~, the district shall have tax increment finance authority, taxing  
14          authority, and other authority that is provided to local governmental subdivisions in  
15          Part II of this Chapter including but not limited to the following: ad valorem tax  
16          increment financing and bonding in R.S. 33:9038.33; sales tax increment financing  
17          and bonding in R.S. 33:9038.34; cooperative endeavor authority in R.S. 33:9038.35;  
18          bond authority in R.S. 33:9038.38; and ad valorem, sales tax, and hotel occupancy  
19          tax authority in R.S. 33:9038.39. The improvement and maintenance of the  
20          greenway is hereby deemed to be cooperative development within the meaning  
21          provided for in this Chapter. An agreement entered into by the district and any  
22          affected tax recipient entity authorizing the use and dedication of the affected tax  
23          recipient entity's incremental increase in taxes may include additional public or  
24          private entities as parties to such agreement and may include such terms, conditions,  
25          and other provisions to which all parties to such agreement consent.

26          G. The district may pledge any taxes collected under the authority of this  
27          Section to any economic development project in furtherance of the purposes of the  
28          district.

1                    H. This Section, being necessary for the welfare of the city of New Orleans  
2                    and its residents, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_