
DIGEST

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HB 267 Original

2025 Regular Session

LaCombe

Abstract: Creates the Hotel Francis District in the town of St. Francisville.

Proposed law creates the Hotel Francis District as a political subdivision in the town of St. Francisville to provide for cooperative economic development to provide for the redevelopment of blighted property into a conference style hotel and related facilities. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the district is governed by a three-member board of commissioners comprised of the mayor and two members of the city's governing authority appointed by the mayor.

Proposed law authorizes the district to levy a hotel occupancy tax and a tax upon the sale of food and beverage not intended for home consumption. The aggregate tax rate of the hotel occupancy tax shall be at least equal to the aggregate rate of all hotel occupancy taxes levied within West Feliciana Parish. The aggregate food and beverage tax rate shall be at least equal to the aggregate rate of all taxes on food and beverage levied within the parish.

Proposed law provides that if there are no hotel occupancy or sales taxes whatsoever generated at the property and, but for the hotel project to be developed at the property within the district, there would be no collection of a hotel occupancy tax or food and beverage tax by any taxing authority within the district, the levy of a tax by the district supersedes and is in lieu of only other taxes on hotel occupancy and sales within the district that do not secure bonds, that have not been dedicated by other law or by proposition approved by electors, and that are not based on a per-person basis.

Proposed law authorizes the district to issue revenue bonds payable from an irrevocable pledge and dedication of up to the full amount of hotel occupancy and food and beverage sales tax increments, in an amount to be determined by the district, to finance or refinance any project or projects or parts thereof which are consistent with the purposes of the district. Further authorizes the district to pledge the tax increments collected pursuant to proposed law to financing of a hotel and related facilities within the district in furtherance of the purposes of the district. Provides that a tax increment shall consist of that portion of the aggregate of such tax revenues collected by the district each year which exceeds the amount of such taxes that were collected in the year immediately prior to the year in which the district was established.

Proposed law provides for termination of the district one year after all debts of the district are paid. However, the district shall not have an existence of more than 40 years from the date on which the district levies a tax.

Proposed law provides that any ordinance or resolution authorizing debt obligations or the pledge of tax increments may be published at least once in the official journal of the parish. Authorizes contesting the debt or pledge for 30 days after the date of publication. Thereafter, it shall be conclusively presumed that every legal requirement for the levy and collection of taxes, the issuance of bonds or other debt obligations, or the pledge of tax increments collected, including all things pertaining to the authorizing thereof, has been complied with.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9038.81)