

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 239

BY SENATOR MCMATH

SPECIAL DISTRICTS. Provides for the St. Tammany Parish Development District. (8/1/25)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:130.401(A), 130.402(A)(1) and (2)(a) and (b), (E), (F), (G)
3 and (H), and to repeal R.S. 33:130.402(A)(2)(c) and (d), relative to the St. Tammany
4 Parish Development District; to provide relative to the purposes of the district; to
5 provide relative to the district board of commissioners, members, and officers; and
6 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. 33:130.401(A), 130.402(A)(1) and (2)(a) and (b), (E), (F), (G) and
10 (H) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §130.401. St. Tammany Parish Development District; creation; territorial
12 jurisdiction

13 A. The St. Tammany Parish Development District, hereinafter referred to as
14 the "district", is hereby constituted and is declared to be a body politic and political
15 subdivision of the state of Louisiana, as defined in Article VI, Section 44 of the
16 Constitution of Louisiana; ~~and~~ a public agency for the purposes of R.S. 12:249 and,
17 solely for purposes of the state's annual appropriations act, a local governing

1 authority. The district may use "St. Tammany Economic Development
 2 Corporation" or a similar trade name. Pursuant to Article VI, Sections 19 and 21
 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, the district, acting through its board of
 4 commissioners, the governing authority of the district, is hereby granted all of the
 5 rights, powers, privileges, and immunities granted to political subdivisions for
 6 economic and industrial development purposes, including but not limited to the
 7 power of taxation, the power to incur debt and issue revenue and general obligation
 8 bonds, certificates of indebtedness, bond and certificate anticipation notes, and
 9 refunding bonds, subject to the limitations hereinafter provided.

10 * * *

11 §130.402. Board of commissioners; members; officers; employees

12 A.(1) The district shall be governed by a board of commissioners consisting
 13 of eleven members selected as provided for in this Section. All members shall be
 14 qualified voters and taxpayers within the limits of the district during their term of
 15 office. ~~On and after January 1, 2018, members~~ **Members** of the board of
 16 commissioners shall be nominated by the board of commissioners and submitted to
 17 the council of St. Tammany Parish for approval. Commissioners shall serve
 18 **staggered** three-year terms of office, ~~except in the case of any shorter initial terms.~~
 19 ~~Initial terms shall be staggered for the periods indicated as follows:~~, **with three or**
 20 **four members term to expire in any year. Notwithstanding the provisions of this**
 21 **Paragraph, a member shall serve until the replacement is approved and sworn.**

22 ~~(a) Four members shall serve three-year initial terms.~~

23 ~~(b) Four members shall serve two-year initial terms.~~

24 ~~(c) Three members shall serve one-year initial terms.~~

25 (2)(a) The nominating committee of the board of commissioners shall consist
 26 of the board ~~president~~ **chair**, and vice ~~president~~ **chair**, **and treasurer**, the district
 27 ~~executive director~~ **president and chief executive officer**, the president of St.
 28 Tammany Parish **or his designee**, and a member of a regional board or commission
 29 selected by the president ~~of~~ **and the** St. Tammany Parish **Council chairman or his**

designee. The nominating committee shall submit its slate of nominees to the board of commissioners for approval. ~~Once a slate of nominees is approved by the board, it shall be forwarded to the council of St. Tammany Parish.~~

~~(b) The initial slate of nominees shall be nominated by the members of the nominating committee and board of commissioners on or before December 31, 2017. For continuity, both the initial nominations and initial approved nominees shall include at least two members of the board of commissioners as of December 31, 2017.~~

~~(c) The council of St. Tammany Parish may approve or disapprove any nominee. The board of commissioners shall submit new nominees for any individual nominees that are not approved.~~

(d) Any vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of the term for which a member of the board of commissioners has been appointed shall be filled pursuant to the same nomination and approval process set forth in Paragraph(1) of this Subsection.

* * *

E. The board of commissioners shall elect from among its own members a ~~president~~ **chair**, a vice ~~president~~ **chair**, a secretary, and a treasurer, whose duties shall be those usual to such offices. At the option of the board of commissioners, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.

F. The board of commissioners shall **attempt to** meet in regular session every month ~~and shall also meet in,~~ **and shall meet not less than nine times per calendar year whether in regular or** special session as ~~often as~~ **called by** the president of the board ~~convenes them~~ **chair** or on the written request of four members. Six members of the board of commissioners shall constitute a quorum.

G. The board of commissioners shall prescribe rules to govern its meetings.

The board of commissioners may contract with or employ attorneys, clerks, engineers, deputy commissioners, ~~an executive director~~ **a president and chief executive officer**, and other agents and employees and shall fix their compensation

and terms of employment.

H. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 42:1111, 1112, 1113, and 1120.4, a member of the board of commissioners who is appointed or who serves pursuant to Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section who is an officer, director, trustee, or employee of the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation **a nonprofit corporation focused on parish or regional economic development of which the district may be a member or contributor** may serve on the board of commissioners and may participate and vote on matters involving the district and the ~~foundation~~ **nonprofit corporation** as authorized by R.S. 33:130.403(22).

Section 2. R.S. 33:130.402(A)(2)(c) and (d) are hereby repealed.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 239 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

McMath

Present law (R.S. 33:130.401) provides that the St. Tammany Parish Development District is declared to be a body politic and political subdivision of the state of Louisiana.

Proposed law (R.S. 33:130.402) retains present law but further provides that the district is created solely for the purposes of the state's annual appropriations act, a local governing authority.

Proposed law provides that the district may use "St. Tammany Economic Development Corporation" or a similar trade name.

Present law provides that the district shall be governed by a board of commissioners consisting of 11 members selected as provided for in this Section. All members shall be qualified voters and taxpayers within the limits of the district during their term of office. On and after January 1, 2018, members of the board of commissioners shall be nominated by the board of commissioners and submitted to the council of St. Tammany Parish for approval. Commissioners shall serve three-year terms of office, except in the case of any shorter initial terms. Initial terms shall be staggered for the periods indicated as follows:

- (1) Four members shall serve three-year initial terms.
- (2) Four members shall serve two-year initial terms.
- (3) Three members shall serve one-year initial terms.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that commissioners shall serve staggered three-year terms of office with three or four members term expiring in any year. Members shall serve until the replacement is approved and sworn.

Present law provides that the nominating committee of the board of commissioners shall

consist of the board president and vice president, the district executive director, the president of St. Tammany Parish or his designee, and a member of a regional board or commission selected by the president of St. Tammany Parish. The nominating committee shall submit its slate of nominees to the board of commissioners for approval. Once a slate of nominees is approved by the board, it shall be forwarded to the council of St. Tammany Parish.

Proposed law retains present law but changes certain nominating committee designations. Provides that the nominating committee shall consist of the board chair, vice chair, and treasurer, the district president and chief executive officer, the president of St. Tammany Parish or his designee, a member of a regional board or commission selected by the president and the St. Tammany Parish Council chairman or his designee.

Present law provides that the initial slate of nominees shall be nominated by the members of the nominating committee and board of commissioners on or before December 31, 2017. For continuity, both the initial nominations and initial approved nominees shall include at least two members of the board of commissioners as of December 31, 2017.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall elect from among its own members a president chair, a vice president chair, a secretary, and a treasurer, whose duties shall be those usual to such offices. At the option of the board of commissioners, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the identification of certain officers as follows:

- (1) The position of president shall be identified as chair.
- (2) The position of vice president shall be identified as vice chair.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall meet in regular session every month and shall also meet in special session as often as the president of the board convenes them or on the written request of four members. Six members of the board of commissioners shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed law changes present law so that the board of commissioners shall attempt to meet in regular session every month, and shall meet not less than nine times per calendar year whether in regular or special session as called by the chair or on the written request of four members. Six members of the board of commissioners shall constitute a quorum.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall prescribe rules to govern its meetings. The board of commissioners may contract with or employ attorneys, clerks, engineers, deputy commissioners, an executive director, and other agents and employees and shall fix their compensation and terms of employment.

Proposed law retains present law but changes one of the parties that the board can contract with from an executive director to a president and CEO.

Present law provides that, notwithstanding the provisions of present law, a member of the board of commissioners who is appointed or who serves pursuant to present law who is an officer, director, trustee, or employee of the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation may serve on the board of commissioners and may participate and vote on matters involving the district and the foundation as authorized by present law.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the appropriate entity of reference for the officer, director, trustee, or employee from the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation to a nonprofit corporation focused on parish or regional economic development of which the district may be a member or contributor.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 33:130.401(A), 130.402(A)(1) and (2)(a) and (b), (E), (F), (G) and (H); repeals R.S. 33:130.402(A)(2)(c) and (d))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Changes certain nominating committee designations of the board of commissioners of the St. Tammany Parish Development District.