
DIGEST

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Moreno

HB No. 500

Abstract: Removes the congressional general election date as an option for an election relative to a parcel fee imposed within a security or neighborhood improvement district in certain parishes.

Present law (Ch. 29 of Title 33 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950) contains various provisions establishing security and neighborhood improvement districts for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security of district residents by providing for an increased presence of law enforcement personnel in the district or otherwise promoting and encouraging security in the district. Authorizes the imposition and renewal of a parcel fee within such a district subject to the approval of voters within the district. Provides that notwithstanding any other provision of law, an election to renew a parcel fee imposed within any crime prevention and security district or neighborhood improvement district created pursuant to present law may be held at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the La. Election Code.

Present law (R.S. 18:402–La. Election Code) provides exclusive dates for bond, tax, and other elections at which a proposition or question is submitted to voters. Provides that one date that such elections may be held is the fifth Sat. after the first Tues. after the first Mon. in Nov. of even-numbered years. Proposed law provides that the fifth Sat. after the first Tues. after the first Mon. in Nov. shall not be applicable in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more for an election relative to a parcel fee imposed within a security or neighborhood improvement district. Provides that for purposes of proposed law, "security or neighborhood improvement district" means a special district, the primary purpose of which includes aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security of district residents by providing for an increased presence of law enforcement personnel in the district or otherwise promoting and encouraging security in the district. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides procedures and requirements for establishing neighborhood crime prevention and security districts and the levying of parcel fees without legislative action with the consent of the appropriate local governing authority. Provides that if the required number of qualified electors within the area proposing the creation of a district and the levy of a parcel fee sign a petition, the appropriate local governing authority may adopt a resolution ordering an election within such area for the purpose of creating the district and approving the levy of the parcel fee. Provides that such election shall only occur in a congressional general election or gubernatorial primary election. Proposed law provides that in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more, such election shall only occur in a gubernatorial primary election. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that the parcel fee shall expire 10 years from its initial levy as provided for in the ballot proposition approved by the voters pursuant to present law, but may be renewed for an additional 10 years only after the question of its imposition has been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the proposition at an election held for the purpose prior to the expiration of the fee. Provides that such an election shall be held at the same time as a congressional general election or a gubernatorial primary election. Proposed law provides that in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more, such election shall only occur in a gubernatorial primary election. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:402(F)(2) and 1300.33(A) and R.S. 33:9100.21(B)(1) and (F)(2)(d))