

SENATE BILL NO. 282

BY SENATOR BROWN

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 38:326.3 and 326.4, relative to special districts; to provide relative to  
3 combined police authority within and by and between the Port of South Louisiana,  
4 the Lafourche Basin Levee District, and the Pontchartrain Levee District; to provide  
5 relative to the jurisdiction, personnel, equipment, costs, and administrative  
6 responsibilities for such authority; to provide for authorization to hire positions; to  
7 provide for limitations for budget restraints; to provide for an executive director and  
8 an assistant executive director of the Lafourche Basin Levee District; and to provide  
9 for related matters.

10 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 38:326.3 and 326.4 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §326.3. Combined police authority; jurisdiction; administrative  
14 responsibilities; personnel, equipment, and expenses

15 A. In addition to the authority, restrictions, requirements, and other  
16 provisions of R.S. 38:326 and 326.1, and notwithstanding any other provision  
17 of law to the contrary, the Port of South Louisiana, the Lafourche Basin Levee  
18 District, and the Pontchartrain Levee District may coordinate and cooperate  
19 jointly with each other to maintain order and to exercise general police power  
20 within the areas of such port and districts and upon their levees.

21 B. The executive directors of the port and the districts may enter into a  
22 cooperative endeavor agreement to authorize the exercise of combined police  
23 protection within the areas of the port and districts, and to provide for the  
24 employment of officers and other personnel, equipment, and administrative  
25 services, necessary and useful to provide for and share the costs and expenses  
26 associated with such police protection. The cooperative endeavor agreement  
27 shall provide that title to equipment used pursuant to the agreement which is

1 owned by the port or a district shall remain with the port or district.

2 C. Each person employed as a police officer shall, at a minimum, be  
3 commissioned as a peace officer by the Department of Public Safety and  
4 Corrections. Such police officers shall have the right to exercise the power of  
5 arrest as peace officers, according to law, within the combined jurisdictions and  
6 boundaries of the port and the districts.

7 D.(1) The governing authority of each entity designated in Subsection A  
8 of this Section that is a party to a cooperative endeavor agreement described in  
9 Subsection B of this Section shall appoint two members, respectively, to serve  
10 as members of a law enforcement coordinating and oversight committee.

11 (2) At the initial meeting, the committee shall elect a president to serve  
12 as presiding officer. The presiding officer shall not cast a vote except in the case  
13 of a tie vote.

14 (3) The committee may employ a chief law enforcement officer, subject  
15 to applicable civil service regulations. However, any applicant with at least  
16 twenty years of experience as a commissioned law enforcement officer who  
17 meets all of the requirements set forth in Subsection C of this Section shall be  
18 eligible for appointment.

19 (4) The chief law enforcement officer shall:

20 (a) Have the right to exercise the authority granted to police officers in  
21 Subsection C of this Section.

22 (b) Supervise and direct the administration and operation of the  
23 combined police protection authorized by the cooperative endeavor agreement.

24 All law enforcement personnel shall be subordinate to the chief.

25 (c) Have general responsibility for law enforcement and be charged with  
26 the enforcement of all applicable laws and ordinances within the areas of the  
27 port and districts.

28 E. Neither the Port of South Louisiana, the Lafourche Basin Levee  
29 District, or the Pontchartrain Levee District shall authorize any additional  
30 funding for a position beyond the limits of its budget.

