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## DIGEST

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HB 846 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Ortego

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District to perform public works on specified bayous and provides relative to restrictions on access to Evangeline Canal.

Present law creates the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District to improve water quality and beautify Bayou Vermilion to promote the bayou as a recreational and cultural asset and to create and control an economic development adjacent to the bayou. Provides that the jurisdiction of the district is coterminous with Lafayette Parish. Provides for governance and powers and duties of the district. Proposed law changes the name of the district to the Bayou Vermilion District.

Present law authorizes the district to make or construct any works of public improvement within the geographic limits of the district that may be necessary or useful for the business of the board by purchasing machinery or materials and equipment for performing such work and supervising the work or by making and constructing such works through contracts with others, all subject to laws applicable to public works contracts.

Proposed law authorizes the district to undertake, as otherwise provided in present law, any work that it deems necessary and proper to improve water quality and flow in Bayou Vermilion within Lafayette Parish, Bayou Carencro, and Evangeline Canal. Prohibits any political subdivision from restricting public access to Evangeline Canal unless the restriction is approved by the legislative natural resources committees.

(Amends R.S. 33:9201, 9202(intro. para.), and 9203(A); Adds R.S. 33:9206(11))