

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 341 (HB 526)

2015 Regular Session

Ourso

New law creates the Woodlawn Estates Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and providing for overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district shall be governed by a board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) Four members appointed by the Woodlawn Estates Homeowners Assoc.
- (2) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the assessor of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Requires board members to own property and reside in the district and to be qualified voters of the district.

New law authorizes the governing authority of the district, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee on each improved and unimproved parcel within the district not to exceed \$300 per parcel per year. Provides, however, that the initial fee for the first calendar year shall not exceed \$150 per parcel. Authorizes the board, subject to voter approval, to increase the fee each year by an amount not to exceed 10% of the fee imposed during the previous year. Provides that the fee and the board's authority to increase the fee expires in 10 years, but authorizes renewal of the fee for a term not to exceed 10 years. Defines "parcel" as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, or an individual tract within the boundaries of the district which is listed on the tax rolls for assessment of property taxes.

New law provides that the fee shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the parish tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Requires the tax collector to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection and authorizes the district to enter into an agreement with the tax collector to authorize the retention of a collection fee, not to exceed 1% of the amount collected.

New law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the La. Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

New law provides that it is the purpose and intent of new law that the additional law enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized by new law shall be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel and services provided in the district by publicly funded law enforcement agencies.

New law provides that if the district ceases to exist, all district funds and property shall be transmitted to the governing authority of the municipality in which district is located if the district was in an incorporated area or to the parish of East Baton Rouge if the district was not in an incorporated area and used to promote and enhance the security and overall betterment of the area included within the district.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 29, 2015).

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.25)