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## DIGEST

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HB 293 Original

2016 Regular Session

Havard

**Abstract:** Increases the maximum per diem authorized to be paid to members of the governing boards of gas utility districts located in parishes with a population of not less than 20,000 persons and not more than 25,000 persons.

Present law authorizes parishes to create gas utility districts within their respective boundaries. Provides that a district is governed by a board of commissioners appointed by the parish governing authority. Provides, however, if the district includes one or more municipalities, the board must consist of nine members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the parish governing authority and two to be appointed by the governing authority of the municipality. Makes provisions for appointment of board members if a district includes two or more municipalities. Provides that members shall serve five-year staggered terms and provides for vacancies.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits members of the board of commissioners from receiving a salary for the performance of their duties as members. Provides, however, that members may receive a per diem for each meeting attended, up to 25 meetings per year, but requires the board to fix the amount of per diem in an amount not to exceed \$75. Authorizes reimbursement for all proper expenses incurred in carrying on the business of the district. Additionally authorizes the board to fix reasonable additional compensation, commensurate with the additional duties performed, for a member who serves as secretary or treasurer or secretary-treasurer of the board. Provides exceptions.

Proposed law provides an exception for board members of any district located in a parish with a population of not less than 20,000 persons and not more than 25,000 persons. Requires the board to fix the amount of per diem in an amount not to exceed \$120 for each meeting attended, up to 25 meetings per year. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

(Adds R.S. 33:4305(B)(5))