

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 785

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:9099.3, relative to neighborhood districts; to provide for the creation of the  
3 neighborhood improvement and beautification districts in certain parishes; to provide  
4 relative to the purpose, governance, and funding of such districts; and to provide for  
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 33:9099.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §9099.3. Neighborhood Improvement and Beautification Districts; certain parishes

9 A. The governing authority of any parish with a population of not less than  
10 two hundred seventy-five thousand persons and not more than four hundred forty-  
11 five thousand persons, according to the latest federal decennial census, may create,  
12 by ordinance, a neighborhood improvement and beautification district within any  
13 neighborhood located within the parish. The district shall be a special taxing district  
14 and a political subdivision as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana. The  
15 boundaries of the district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the  
16 neighborhood.

17 B. The primary object and purpose of the district shall be to promote and  
18 encourage the improvement, beautification, and overall betterment of the  
19 neighborhood located within the boundaries of the district in order to add to the  
20 quality of life of district residents by maintaining property values, increasing the tax  
21 base, fostering economic growth, and providing for recreational activities.

1           C.(1) The parish governing authority shall provide, in the ordinance creating  
 2           the district, for its name, boundaries, governance, and powers and duties, including  
 3           the authority to impose taxes or fees on property located within the boundaries of the  
 4           district. However, no tax or fee may be imposed within the district until after the  
 5           question of its imposition, including its purpose, rate, and duration, has been  
 6           approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the district who vote on the  
 7           proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana  
 8           Election Code.

9           (2) The parish governing authority may grant to the district the power to  
 10          perform any function which it deems appropriate for achieving the purpose of the  
 11          district, including the acquisition of property located within the boundaries of the  
 12          district. However, the district shall not be authorized to acquire property by  
 13          expropriation.

14          D.(1) Any district created pursuant to this Section shall be subject to audit  
 15          in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 24:513.

16          (2) The funds of the district shall not be used for the improvement and  
 17          maintenance of a security wall around the neighborhood, provision and maintenance  
 18          of guardhouses, or provision and improvement of security patrols in the area.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_