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## DIGEST

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HB 148 Original

2017 Regular Session

Jackson

**Abstract:** Grants the city of Monroe the authority to create road lighting and video monitoring districts.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of the city of Monroe to create, by ordinance, road lighting and video monitoring districts as political subdivisions of the state for the purpose of enhancing the beautification of the districts as well as aiding in the protection of district residents. Provides that the boundaries and governance of each district will be as provided in the ordinance creating the district.

Proposed law provides for the powers and duties of each district, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.
- (3) To purchase and lease items and supplies necessary for achieving any purpose of the district.
- (4) To accept private grants and donations.

Proposed law provides that the district shall not be deemed to be an instrumentality of the state for purposes of the state civil service provisions of the state constitution.

Proposed law authorizes each district, through its board, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district subject to and in accordance with proposed law. Provides that the fee shall be:

- (1) In an amount that shall be as requested by duly adopted resolution of the board.
- (2) Imposed on each parcel located within the district (except upon any parcel whose owner qualifies for the special assessment level provided by present constitution).
- (3) Imposed only after approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district who vote at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the La. Election Code.

Proposed law provides that "parcel" means a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a "condominium parcel" as defined in present law. Provides that each parcel's owner shall be

responsible for fee payment.

Proposed law provides that the fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes on property subject to taxation by Ouachita Parish and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the tax rolls of the parish and shall be enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Provides that fee proceeds shall be used solely for the purpose and benefit of the district.

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

Proposed law provides that its intent is that any additional road lighting and video monitoring infrastructure improvements provided by each district shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of improvements provided in the district by the city of Monroe or Ouachita Parish.

(Adds R.S. 48:1309.4)