
DIGEST

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HB 542 Original

2018 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Relative to the Melrose Place Crime Prevention District in East Baton Rouge Parish, authorizes the district rather than the parish to impose the parcel fee, provides relative to the collection of the parcel fee, provides relative to the powers of the district, and provides relative to liability of board members.

Present law creates the Melrose Place Crime Prevention District. Provides that the purpose of the district is to aid in crime prevention and to add to the security of district residents by providing for an increase in the presence of law enforcement personnel in the district. Proposed law retains present law and provides that district purposes also include providing for beautification of public spaces, promotion of beautification of private spaces, and providing for the overall betterment of the district.

Present law provides for the powers and duties of the district, which include the power to purchase items and supplies. Proposed law additionally authorizes the district to lease items and supplies. Adds the following to the powers and duties of the district:

- (1) To procure and maintain liability insurance against liability of a board member in his service or actions as a board member.
- (2) To solicit, accept, and expend additional voluntary contributions and grants.

Present law authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish to impose a parcel fee to fund the district; the maximum annual fee is \$200 per residential parcel and \$1,000 per commercial parcel. Proposed law authorizes the district, rather than the parish, to impose the parcel fee after the term of the currently imposed parcel fee expires.

Present law provides for the parish to collect the fee and remit amounts collected to the district. Authorizes the parish to retain 1% as a collection fee. Proposed law provides for the sheriff to collect the fee and authorizes him to retain a collection fee of up to 1%.

Present law provides that the district's budget is subject to approval of the parish governing authority. Proposed law removes present law.

Proposed law provides that no board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district for monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board member or officer unless the board member performs an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law or any transaction from which he derives an improper personal benefit.

(Amends R.S. 33:9097.4(C), (E), (F)(intro. para.), (1), (4), and (6), and (G)(1); Adds R.S. 33:9097.4(I))