2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 549

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

TAX: Adds structures located in opportunity zones to the property eligible to participate in
      the Restoration Tax Abatement program

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 47:4311 and 4313(A)(1); relative to the Restoration Tax

3   Abatement program; to add opportunity zones to property eligible for the program;

4   to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6   Section 1. R.S. 47:4311 and 4313(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read

7   as follows:

8   §4311. Findings and purpose

9   It is recognized as essential to the continued growth and development of the

10   state and to the continued prosperity and welfare of the people of the state that the

11   expansion, restoration, improvement, and development of existing commercial

12   structures and owner-occupied residences in downtown, historic, and economic

13   development districts, and opportunity zones be encouraged in order to provide for

14   the development and improvement of local communities, the fullest use of

15   underutilized resources, and the enhancement of the tax base. For these reasons the

16   legislature proposed and the people of Louisiana adopted Article VII, Section 21(H)

17   of the Constitution of Louisiana to provide a means by which owners of such

18   properties who expand, restore, improve, or develop them may pay ad valorem taxes

19   for five years based upon the assessed valuation of the property for the year prior to

20   the commencement of the expansion, restoration, improvement, or development. It

1   is the purpose of this Chapter to provide the procedures and conditions for the

2   granting of contracts for such purpose by the State Board of Commerce and Industry

3   in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Constitution.

4   *   *   *

5   §4313. Contracts of limited exemption

6   A.(1) The board, with the approval of the governor and the local governing

7   authority, may enter into a contract granting to a property owner who proposes the

8   expansion, restoration, improvement, or development of a commercial structure or

9   structures or an owner-occupied residence in a downtown, historic, or economic

10   development district, or opportunity zone the right for five years after completion of

11   the work to pay ad valorem taxes based upon the assessed valuation of the property

12   for the year prior to the commencement of the expansion, restoration, improvement,

13   or development.

14   *   *   *

15   Section 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019 and shall be applicable to all

16   applications received on or after July 1, 2019.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute
part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 549 Original   2019 Regular Session   Jefferson

Abstract: Adds structures located in opportunity zones to the property eligible to
            participate in the Restoration Tax Abatement proposal

Present law authorizes the Restoration Tax Abatement program which allows owners of
commercial structures or an owner-occupied residence in a downtown, historic, or economic
development district who expand, restore, improve, or develop eligible property to pay ad
valorem taxes for five years based upon the assessed valuation of the property for the year
prior to the commencement of the expansion, restoration, improvement, or development.

Proposed law retains present law and adds opportunity zones to the types of property eligible
for the Restoration Tax Abatement program.

Effective July 1, 2019, and applicable to all applications received on or after July 1,
2019.

(Amends R.S. 47:4311 and 4313(A)(1))