

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 67

BY SENATOR MORRELL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Creates the Mid City Economic Development District in Orleans Parish. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 33:2740.70.2, relative to Orleans Parish; to create the Mid City Economic Development District within the parish; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose, and powers and duties of the district; to provide relative to district funding, including the authority to levy taxes; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.70.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2740.70.2. The Mid City Economic Development District; creation, composition, and powers; levy of ad valorem taxes

A. There is hereby created within the parish of Orleans a body politic and corporate which shall be known as the Mid City Economic Development District, referred to in this Section as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana. The district, acting through its board of commissioners, the governing authority of the district, is hereby granted all of the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities granted to political subdivisions for economic development

1 purposes.

2 B. The district is established to allow the assessor to purchase and
3 develop property in the district for the use of any governmental subdivision.

4 C. The boundaries of the district shall encompass the area included
5 within the following perimeter: I-10, LaSalle Street, Tulane Avenue, and
6 Broad Street.

7 D. The district shall be governed by a five-member board of
8 commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board". The board shall be
9 composed as follows:

10 (1)(a) The state representative who represents the district, or his
11 designee.

12 (b) The state senator who represents the district, or his designee.

13 (c) The mayor of the city of New Orleans, or his designee.

14 (d) The sheriff of Orleans Parish, or his designee.

15 (e) The assessor of Orleans Parish, or his designee.

16 (2)(a) Each designee shall be a resident of the district and a qualified
17 voter of the city of New Orleans. Each designee shall also have his principal
18 place of business in or own property in the district. Each designee shall serve at
19 the pleasure of his respective designating authority. Members shall serve until
20 their successors have been appointed and qualified.

21 (b) Any vacancy which occurs in the membership of the board shall be
22 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

23 (3) As soon as practicable after its appointment, the board shall meet
24 and elect from its number a vice chairman, a treasurer, and other officers as it
25 may deem appropriate. The assessor of Orleans parish shall serve as chairman.
26 The duties of the officers shall be fixed by bylaws adopted by the board.

27 (4) The board shall adopt rules and regulations as it deems necessary or
28 advisable for conducting its business and affairs and shall engage assistants and
29 employees as are needed to assist the board in the performance of its duties. It

1 shall hold regular meetings as shall be provided by its bylaws and may hold
2 special meetings at such time and places within or without the district as may
3 be prescribed in its rules or regulations.

4 (5) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum
5 for the transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all regular and
6 special meetings and shall make them available to the public in conformance
7 with law.

8 (6) The members of the board shall serve without compensation;
9 however, they shall receive travel allowance as reimbursement for expenses
10 incurred while attending to the business of the district.

11 (7) Any member of the board may serve on the board of a private entity
12 which enters into contracts with the district provided that the member does not
13 receive compensation from the private entity.

14 (8) The state senator who represents the district shall call the first
15 meeting of the board no later than February 15, 2020.

16 E. The district shall have the power to acquire, lease, insure, and sell
17 real property within its boundaries.

18 F. The city council, in addition to all other taxes which it may be
19 authorized by law to levy and collect, is authorized to levy and collect as
20 provided in this Section for a term not to exceed fifty years from and after the
21 date the first tax is levied pursuant to the provisions of this Section, in the same
22 manner and at the same time as all other ad valorem taxes on property subject
23 to taxation by the city are levied and collected, a special ad valorem tax upon all
24 taxable real property situated within the boundaries of the district. The tax
25 shall be levied and collected only after the question of its imposition has been
26 submitted to and approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the district
27 voting on the question at a regularly scheduled primary or general election to
28 be conducted in accordance with provisions of the Louisiana Election Code. Any
29 tax levied pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the

1 homestead exemption as provided by Article VII, Section 20 of the Constitution
 2 of Louisiana. The proceeds of the tax shall be used solely and exclusively for the
 3 purposes and benefit of the district. The proceeds shall be paid over to the
 4 Board of Liquidation, City Debt, day by day as the same are collected and
 5 received by the appropriate officials of the city of New Orleans and maintained
 6 in a separate account. The tax proceeds shall be paid out by the Board of
 7 Liquidation, City Debt, solely for the purposes provided for in this Section upon
 8 warrants or drafts drawn on the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, by the
 9 appropriate officials of the city and the treasurer of the district.

10 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 11 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 12 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 13 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 14 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

DIGEST

SB 67 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Morrell

Proposed law creates the Mid City Economic Development District in the parish of Orleans. Provides that district boundaries shall encompass the area included within the following perimeter: I-10, LaSalle St., Tulane Ave., and Broad St.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be governed by a five-member board of commissioners who shall serve without compensation. Provides that the board shall be composed as follows:

- (1) The state representative who represents the district, or his designee.
- (2) The state senator who represents the district, or his designee.
- (3) The mayor of the city of New Orleans, or his designee.
- (4) The sheriff of Orleans Parish, or his designee.
- (5) The assessor of Orleans Parish, or his designee.

Proposed law provides that each designee be a resident of the district and a qualified voter of the city of New Orleans. Proposed law further provides for each designee to have his principal place of business in or own property in the district and that each designee shall serve at the pleasure of his respective designating authority.

Proposed law provides for the assessor to serve as the chairman and requires the board to

elect from its number a vice chairman, a treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem appropriate.

Proposed law authorizes the city council of New Orleans, subject to voter approval, to levy and collect, for a term not to exceed 50 years, a special ad valorem tax. Provides that the tax shall be levied and collected in the same manner and at the same time as all other ad valorem taxes on property subject to taxation by the city. Provides that any tax levied shall be subject to the homestead exemption as provided by the constitution.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.70.2)