DIGEST

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HB 323 Reengrossed   2019 Regular Session   James

Abstract: Creates the Monticello Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish. Provides for the district's boundaries, purpose, governance, and funding, including the authority to impose a parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the Monticello Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners, all of whom shall be residents and qualified voters of the district, composed as follows:

(1)   The president of the Monticello Citizens Assoc. (association).

(2)   Two members appointed by the board of directors of the association.

(3)   One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

(4)   One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

(5)   One member appointed by the member of the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

(6)   One member appointed by the mayor-president of East Baton Rouge.

Proposed law provides that members serve without compensation and without reimbursement of expenses.

Proposed law provides relative to the powers and duties of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district. Provides that the amount of the fee shall not be more than $100 per parcel per year. Requires that the fee be imposed on each parcel located within the district.

Proposed law defines "parcel" as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a "condominium parcel" as defined in present law (R.S. 9:1121.103).

Proposed law provides that the fee shall expire 10 years after its initial levy but authorizes renewal of that fee. Provides that the term of the imposition of the fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing such renewal, not to exceed 10 years. Further provides that the fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the parish tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Requires the sheriff to remit amounts collected to the district not later than 60 days after collection, but authorizes the board to enter into a contract with the sheriff authorizing the sheriff to retain a collection fee.

Proposed law provides that the district shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law (R.S. 39:1301 et seq.) and shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor's office.

Proposed law provides that the intent of proposed law is to enhance the law enforcement personnel and services provided by the city and not to be in lieu of such services. Further provides that if the district ceases to exist, all of its funds shall be transmitted to the governing authority of the parish of East Baton Rouge and shall be used for law enforcement purposes in the area formerly comprising the district. Further provides that upon dissolution of the district, the authority to levy the parcel fee provided for in proposed law shall cease.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.30)