

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 208

2019 Regular Session

Brass

DISTRICTS/SPECIAL: Provides relative to educational facilities improvement districts.

DIGEST

Present law creates an educational facilities improvement district in the school districts in the parishes of Tangipahoa, Livingston, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Webster, Jefferson, Lafayette, Sabine, DeSoto, Red River, Richland, Morehouse, Madison, Tensas, Natchitoches, Winn, East Carroll, West Carroll, LaSalle, Grant, Caldwell, Franklin, Ouachita, Bienville, and St. Landry and in the cities of Monroe and Baker with the authority to levy a sales tax of not more than 1%, subject to voter approval, and to issue bonds secured by such tax to aid school districts in acquisition, construction, and maintenance of facilities, property, and equipment. Further provides that such districts shall have boundaries coterminous with the school district.

Present law provides that such districts are created for purposes of assisting school boards to purchase, construct, or improve school buildings and other school-related facilities; acquire necessary or desirable equipment and furnishings therefor; repair, maintain, and rehabilitate existing school-related facilities; acquire or improve lands for building sites, playgrounds, and other school-related areas, title to which shall be vested in the public, and to maintain such facilities; to provide funding for other matters for which school boards are authorized by law to expend funds; and generally to assist school boards experiencing financial difficulties regarding capital facilities or other needs.

Present law provides for governance of such districts by a board of at least 5 directors (the number to be determined by the respective school board) and provides for the terms, selection of officers, domicile, and a place or places for meetings. Provides that directors shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement of expenses at a rate not to exceed the rate for state employees.

Present law authorizes a district to fund sales tax revenues into bonds in accordance with present law.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law retains present law and in the same manner as present law creates an educational facilities improvement district in the school districts in the following parishes:

1. Parishes with a population between 100,000 and 110,000 persons, according to the most recent decennial census (Ascension).
2. Parishes with a population between 33,000 and 33,500 persons, according to the most recent decennial census (Iberville).
3. Parishes with a population between 21,000 and 22,200 persons, according to the most recent decennial census (St. James).

(Amends R.S. 33:2740.37(B)(1) and (F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the engrossed bill

1. Reduces scope of bill from statewide to the parishes enumerated in present law and three additional parishes.