

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 168 (HB 590)

2019 Regular Session

Gaines

Existing law creates the River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors District and its governing authority, the River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors Commission, to attract conventions, tourists, and visitors to St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. James parishes.

Existing law authorizes the commission to levy a hotel occupancy tax. Prior law provided that the maximum tax rate was 2%. New law raises the maximum tax rate to 4%.

Existing law requires that the commission meet at least quarterly. Prior law prohibited the commission from meeting more than once per month. New law deletes the prior law prohibition.

Existing law provides relative to the powers of the commission including:

- (1) Authorizes the commission to spend money on capital improvements if necessary to receive matching federal funds.
- (2) Authorizes the commission to do all things necessary to attract conventions, tourists, and visitors including promotion of convention facilities, tourist attractions, and other points of interest.
- (3) Prohibits the commission from exercising any function which results in competition with local retail businesses or enterprises.

New law makes the following changes to the powers of the commission:

- (1) Adds the receipt of matching *state* funds as a circumstance when the commission may spend money on capital improvements.
- (2) Limits the prohibition on exercising any function which results in competition with local retail businesses or enterprises to functions which would result in *direct* competition.
- (3) Provides that the commission's power to do all things necessary to attract conventions, tourists, and visitors includes the *management* of various points of interest and adds film studios and activities and docking facilities to such points of interest.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 33:4574.12(B)(6), (C)(1), and (D)(1)(a))