
DIGEST

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HB 332 Original

2021 Regular Session

Willard

Abstract: Creates the Vista Park Crime Prevention District in Orleans Parish. Provides for the district's boundaries, purpose, governance, and funding, including the authority to impose a parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the Vista Park Crime Prevention District in Orleans 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 five-member board of commissioners, all of whom shall be residents and qualified voters of the district, composed as follows:

- (1) Three members appointed by the board of directors of the Vista Park Civic and Improvement Association.
- (2) 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.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the New Orleans City Council whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

Proposed law provides that members serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance of the district.

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

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of the city of New Orleans, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district. Provides that the maximum fee shall be as follows: \$400 per year for unimproved residential parcels; \$400 per year for single family residential parcels; \$600 per year for multiple adjacent residential parcels housing a single-family dwelling; \$1000 per year for multi-family residential parcels; and \$1000 per year for unimproved and improved commercial parcels.

Proposed law defines "parcel" as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, or an individual tract.

Proposed law provides that the fee shall expire eight 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 eight 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 city's tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Requires the city to remit amounts collected to the district not later than 60 days after collection, but authorizes the city to retain 1% as 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 district funds shall be transmitted to the city to be used to provide for the overall betterment of the district.

Proposed law provides that no board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district for monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board member or officer unless the board member performs an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law or any transaction from which he derives an improper personal benefit.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9091.26)