

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 264 (HB 257)

2021 Regular Session

Freiberg

New law creates the Plantation Trace Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and providing for the overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Plantation Trace Residents Assoc. (association).
- (2) Three members appointed by the president 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 governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge (city-parish) whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the assessor for East Baton Rouge Parish.

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

New law authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee on each improved and unimproved parcel. Provides that the amount of the fee shall be determined by the board but cannot exceed \$300 per parcel per year.

New law provides that the term of the fee expires at the time provided in the proposition authorizing the fee, not to exceed 10 years, but authorizes renewal of the fee for a term not to exceed 10 years, also subject to voter approval. Defines "parcel" as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a "condominium parcel" as defined in existing law (R.S. 9:1121.103).

New law provides that the fee shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time 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 tax collector to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection, and authorizes the district to enter into an agreement with the tax collector to authorize the retention of a collection fee, not to exceed 1% of the amount collected.

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

New law provides that it is the purpose and intent of new law that the additional law enforcement personnel and services provided for through the fees authorized by new law shall be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel and services provided in the district by publicly funded law enforcement agencies. Further provides that if the district ceases to exist, all of its funds shall be transmitted to the city-parish to be used for law enforcement purposes in the area which comprised the district.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 14, 2021).

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.33)