
DIGEST

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HB 216 Original

2022 Regular Session

Adams

Abstract: Creates the Myrtle Hill Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law creates the Myrtle Hill Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state to aid in crime prevention and to provide funding for the beautification and improvement of the district. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law provides for the governance of the district by a seven-member board composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Myrtle Hill Homeowners Assoc., Inc. (association).
- (2) Two members appointed by the board of directors of the association.
- (3) One member appointed by the member(s) of the La. House of Representatives who represent the area which comprises the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member(s) of the La. Senate who represent the area which comprises the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the member(s) of the governing authority of city of Baton Rouge/parish of East Baton Rouge who represent the area which comprises the district.
- (6) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of Zachary.

Requires that members be registered voters within the district and further requires that they serve without compensation. Further provides that appointed members serve three-year staggered terms.

Proposed law establishes the powers of the district which include:

- (1) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to proposed law in accordance with a budget adopted pursuant to proposed law.
- (2) To enter into contracts.
- (3) To purchase items and supplies necessary for achieving any purpose of the district.

- (4) To accept private grants and donations.
- (5) To purchase and maintain liability insurance for board members for actions taken in the course of their duties on the board.
- (6) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary to achieve the purposes of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish to collect a parcel fee within the district, not to exceed \$250 per year, subject to voter approval.

Provides that the amount of the fee shall be as provided by duly adopted resolution of the board and the fee shall only be imposed on lots containing single-family dwellings.

Proposed law provides that the fee expires 10 years from its initial levy, but may be renewed in the same manner as its imposition. 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 parcel fees shall be added to the tax rolls of the parish and enforced with the same authority and the same penalties as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

Proposed law requires the district to adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law 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 East Baton Rouge Parish and shall be used to enhance security and beautification 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 governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.35)