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## DIGEST

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HB 960 Original

2022 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

**Abstract:** Creates the North Lake Charles Economic Development District.

Proposed law creates the North Lake Charles Economic Development District as a political subdivision of the state. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law specifies the composition and powers of the board responsible for managing the affairs of the district. Provides that a seven-member board shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the mayor of Lake Charles, subject to approval by the governing authority of the city.
- (2) One member appointed by the governing authority of the city of Lake Charles.
- (3) Two members appointed by the state representative for the House of Representatives district which encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the state senator for the Senate district which encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the governing board of the Chamber of Commerce Southwest La.
- (6) One member appointed by the governing board of the La. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, also known as the "La. Black Chamber of Commerce".

Provides that members serve three-year staggered terms.

Proposed law requires the board to prepare a plan specifying public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished, constructed, or acquired which shall be improvements, facilities, and services, which the city is authorized to undertake, furnish, or provide.

Proposed law requires the board to conduct hearings and disseminate information as it deems appropriate or advisable. Provides that any plan developed by the board shall include an estimate of the annual and total cost of acquiring, constructing, or providing the services, improvements, or facilities.

Proposed law requires that the board submit the plan to the city planning commission which shall

review it for consistency with the comprehensive plan for the city. Requires that the planning commission submit an opinion of such plan to the city council. Provides the city council shall accept, reject, or modify the proposed plan. Provides relative to modifications of the plan which shall be subject to the approval of the board and the city council.

Proposed law further provides for development of a plan regarding the employment of professional consultations, experts, and advisors. Requires that the activities of the district shall be undertaken through the city's departments and agencies.

Proposed law specifically empowers the district to issue revenue bonds payable from an irrevocable pledge and dedication of up to the full amount of "tax increments" available to an economic development district as provided in the proposed law and in Part II which is derived from any project or projects of the district in an amount to be determined as follows, in order to finance or refinance any project or projects, or parts thereof, which are consistent with the purposes of the district.

Proposed law specifies that "a tax increment" consists of either or both of the following:

- (1) That portion of any tax levied within the district by a local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body determined and pledged in the manner provided for in Part II. However, if the proceeds of such tax have been expressly dedicated to another purpose set forth in a proposition approved by the electorate of such local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body, then the tax proceeds may not be used as a tax increment until a proposition which authorizes such use is submitted to and approved by such electorate.
- (2) A portion of its own hotel occupancy tax determined by the board and levied only on developments occurring on and after the effective date of proposed law within the district. The tax may be levied in lieu of the taxes levied within the district by other taxing authorities through an ordinance adopted by the district's board of commissioners with the consent of such tax authorities expressed by ordinance or resolution only after the tax has been submitted for voter approval and approved at an election to be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the state. However, if the proceeds of any such tax has been expressly dedicated to another purpose set forth in a proposition approved by the electorate of such tax authority, then the tax proceeds may not be used for tax increment finance purposes until a proposition which authorizes such use is submitted to and approved by such electorate.

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.70.3)