

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 732

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 17-E of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 25:850.21, and to repeal R.S. 33:2740.26, relative to Orleans  
4 Parish; to provide relative to the Louis Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz  
5 District; to provide that the district is a political subdivision of the state; to provide  
6 relative to the governing board of the district; to provide relative to the membership  
7 of the board; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the district; and to  
8 provide for related matters.

9 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
10 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
11 Louisiana.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. Chapter 17-E of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
14 comprised of R.S. 25:850.21, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 CHAPTER 17-E. LOUIS ARMSTRONG PARK AUTHORITY AND HISTORIC JAZZ

16 DISTRICT

17 §850.21. Louis Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz District; creation,  
18 composition, and powers

19 A. There is hereby created within the parish of Orleans, as more specifically  
20 provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate which shall  
21 be known as the Louis Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz District, referred

1 to in this Section as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the  
2 state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

3 B. The boundaries of the district shall be that area of the city of New Orleans  
4 bounded on the east by Esplanade Avenue, on the south by Rampart Street, on the  
5 west by Canal Street, and on the north by North Claiborne Avenue, including the  
6 contiguous property on both sides of these streets.

7 C. The district is established for the primary object and purpose of acquiring  
8 ownership, leasing, or entering into a management agreement for the Louis  
9 Armstrong Park facility from or with the city of New Orleans. Additionally, the  
10 district is authorized to promote, encourage, and enhance the park and all areas  
11 within the boundaries of the district through renewed commerce, industry, and  
12 utilization and development of the human resources of the area. The objectives of  
13 the district may include such matters as music, housing, economic development,  
14 skills and technical training, the cultural and historic value of the area, tourism,  
15 entertainment, health, and day care facilities.

16 D.(1) The district shall be governed by a seventeen-member board of  
17 commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board". The board shall be  
18 composed as follows:

19 (a) The governing board of the Greater Treme Consortium, Inc., shall  
20 appoint one member.

21 (b) The governing board of Save Our Soul Coalition, Inc., shall appoint one  
22 member.

23 (c) The governing board of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation,  
24 Inc., shall appoint one member.

25 (d) The governing boards of the Claiborne Cultural Innovation District and  
26 the Claiborne Merchants & Business Association shall jointly appoint one member.

27 (e) The governing board of the Historic Faubourg Treme Association shall  
28 appoint one member.

1                   (f) The governing board of French Quarter Citizens, Inc., shall appoint one  
2                   member.

3                   (g) The governing board of the Congo Square Preservation Society shall  
4                   appoint one member.

5                   (h) The governing board of the New Orleans Black Masking Indian  
6                   Cooperative shall appoint one member.

7                   (i) The governing board of the Kumbuka African Drum and Dance  
8                   Collective shall appoint one member.

9                   (j) The governing board of the New Orleans Culture Preservation Committee  
10                  shall appoint one member.

11                  (k) The governing board of Tamborine and Fan, Inc., shall appoint one  
12                  member.

13                  (l) The governing board of the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic and  
14                  Assistance Foundation shall appoint one member.

15                  (m) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses all or  
16                  the greater portion of the area of the district or his designee.

17                  (n) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district  
18                  encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district or his designee.

19                  (o) The member of the United States House of Representatives whose district  
20                  encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district or his designee.

21                  (p) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.

22                  (q) The member of the governing authority of the city of New Orleans whose  
23                  district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district or his  
24                  designee.

25                  (2) All members of the board shall be residents of Orleans Parish.

26                  (3)(a) Board members serving pursuant to Subparagraphs (1)(a) through (1)  
27                  of this Subsection shall serve three-year terms after serving initial terms as provided  
28                  in this Subparagraph. Four members shall serve initial terms of three years; four

1           shall serve initial terms of two years; and four shall serve initial terms of one year,  
2           as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board.

3           (b) The members serving pursuant to Subparagraphs (1)(m) through (q) of  
4           this Subsection shall serve during their terms of office. Any designee serving on the  
5           board shall serve at the pleasure of the designating authority.

6           (4) Any vacancy in the membership of the board, occurring either by reason  
7           of the expiration of the term for which appointed or by reason of death, resignation,  
8           or otherwise, shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment. If the entity  
9           responsible for the appointment of a member fails to fill a vacancy within thirty days,  
10          the board may appoint an interim successor to serve for the remainder of the  
11          unexpired term.

12          (5) Board members are eligible for reappointment.

13          (6) The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, a  
14          secretary-treasurer, and such other officers as it deems necessary. The duties of the  
15          officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

16          (7) The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the  
17          secretary-treasurer of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall  
18          be in the official custody of the board.

19          (8) The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary  
20          or advisable for conducting its business affairs and, to the extent that funds are  
21          available, shall hire such assistants and employees as are needed to assist the board  
22          in the performance of its duties. Rules and regulations of the board relative to the  
23          notice and conduct of meetings shall conform to applicable law, including, if  
24          applicable, R.S. 42:11 et seq., relative to open meetings. The board shall hold  
25          regular meetings as shall be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special  
26          meetings at such times and places within the district as may be prescribed in the  
27          bylaws.

1                   (9) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the  
2                   transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall make  
3                   them available through the secretary-treasurer of the board.

4                   (10) Each member of the board shall have one vote, and the vote of a  
5                   majority of the members of the board present and voting, a quorum being present,  
6                   shall be required to decide any question upon which the board takes action.

7                   (11) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall  
8                   receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses directly related to the governance of  
9                   the district.

10                  E. The district shall have and exercise all powers of a political subdivision  
11                  necessary or convenient for the purpose of funding the district and carrying out its  
12                  objects and purposes, including but not limited to the following:

13                   (1) To incur debt.

14                   (2) To sue and be sued.

15                   (3) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

16                   (4) To adopt bylaws and rules and regulations.

17                   (5) To receive by gift, grant, donation, or otherwise any sum of money,  
18                   property, aid, or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any  
19                   political subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.

20                   (6) To enter into contracts, agreements, or cooperative endeavors with the  
21                   state and its political subdivisions or political corporations and with any public or  
22                   private association, corporation, business entity, or individual.

23                   (7) To elect officers and appoint agents and employees and prescribe their  
24                   duties.

25                   (8) To acquire property by purchase, gift, grant, donation, or lease.

26                   (9) To establish monetary, bank, and investment accounts.

27                   (10) To establish committees or subcommittees.

1           F. In order to provide for the growth and development of the district, to  
2           encourage the fullest use of underutilized resources, to provide for the enhancement  
3           of the tax base, and to improve communication and coordination among the  
4           economic and human development efforts of state, federal, and local governments,  
5           the board may:

6           (1) Seek the designation of the park as a national park in any way it deems  
7           appropriate, including communication and cooperation with any state or federal  
8           authority or commission. Additionally, the board may seek designation as the  
9           federal or state management authority for such park.

10          (2) Make recommendations concerning natural and environmental factors,  
11          trends in industrial, population, or other developments; the habits and lifestyles of  
12          the people of the district; the relation of land use within the district as it relates to the  
13          city as a whole; areas for the concentration of wholesale, retail, business, and other  
14          commercial uses; and areas for recreational uses, and for spaces and areas of mixed  
15          uses.

16          (3) Make recommendations concerning the need for and the proposed  
17          general location of public and private works and facilities, including but not limited  
18          to pollution control facilities.

19          (4) Make or assist in studies and investigations of the resources of the district  
20          and the existing and emerging problems of industry, commerce, transportation,  
21          population, housing, public service affecting the redevelopment of the district, and  
22          in making such studies to seek the cooperation and collaboration of the appropriate  
23          state departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of federal, state, and local  
24          government, educational institutions, research organizations, whether public or  
25          private, and of civic groups and private persons and organizations.

26          (5) Prepare and from time to time revise inventory listings of the district's  
27          resources and of the major public and private works and facilities of all kinds which  
28          are deemed necessary to the redevelopment of the district.

1           (6) Cooperate and confer with and upon request supply information to  
2           federal agencies and to local and regional agencies created pursuant to a federal  
3           program or which receive federal support and to cooperate and confer with economic  
4           development authorities in and outside of the state.

5           (7) Advise and supply information to civic groups and private persons and  
6           organizations who may request such information or advice or who study or otherwise  
7           concern themselves with the district's problems and development of the fields of  
8           business and industry, labor, natural resources, urban growth, housing, and public  
9           service activities such as public health and education, insofar as such problems and  
10          development may be relevant to the district's redevelopment.

11          (8) Provide information to officials of departments, agencies, and  
12          instrumentalities of state and local government and to the public at large in order to  
13          foster public awareness and understanding of the objectives of the district in order  
14          to stimulate public interest and participation in the orderly, integrated development  
15          of the district.

16          (9) Accept and receive, in furtherance of its functions, funds, grants, and  
17          services from the federal government or its agencies, from departments, agencies,  
18          and instrumentalities of state, parish, municipal, or local government, or from private  
19          or civic sources.

20          (10) Solicit the assistance and active cooperation of industry and private  
21          civic organizations which are active in anti-litter and recycling efforts to assist in the  
22          control and reduction of litter within the boundaries of the district. The board may  
23          also encourage industry and private civic organizations to participate in the  
24          "adopt-a-road" program as provided in R.S. 48:235 for the purpose of controlling  
25          litter along the public roads in the district.

26          (11) Hold public hearings and sponsor public forums whenever it deems  
27          necessary or useful in the execution of its functions.

1                   (12) Contract with the city of New Orleans for the purchase or  
 2                   lease-management of any parks within the boundaries of the district and to assess an  
 3                   admission fee regarding any such park.

4                   Section 2. R.S. 33:2740.26 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

5                   Section 3. The terms of members serving on the governing board of the Louis  
 6                   Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz District on the effective date of this Act shall  
 7                   terminate on the effective date of this Act. The members of the governing board of the Louis  
 8                   Armstrong Park Authority and Historic Jazz District shall be appointed and shall take office  
 9                   as provided in this Act and shall serve terms of office as provided in this Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_