

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 421

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Creates a renaissance district in certain parishes. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To enact Subpart O of Part XI of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 15:1109.21 through 1109.26, relative to a renaissance district in certain parishes; to provide for juvenile detention and treatment services; to create a board of commissioners of the district; to provide for the powers, duties, and functions of the board; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart O of Part XI of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 15:1109.21 through 1109.26, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART O. RENAISSANCE DISTRICT

§1109.21. Renaissance District; creation; jurisdiction

A renaissance district is hereby created in any parish having a population of more than one hundred twenty-nine thousand and less than one hundred thirty-two thousand persons, which shall be a political subdivision of the state.

§1109.22. Board of commissioners; appointment; terms

A. The renaissance district shall be governed by a commission which

1 shall control, administer, and manage its affairs. The commission shall be
2 composed of seven commissioners, and each shall be a qualified elector of and
3 domiciled in the parish. Each commissioner shall be appointed for a term of
4 four years as follows:

5 (1) Five members shall be appointed by the parish governing authority
6 as follows:

7 (a) Two members shall be appointed from an existing renaissance board
8 of directors as long as that board exists, after which time two members shall be
9 appointed from the residents of the parish who are not employed by the parish
10 police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation,
11 or incarceration of juveniles.

12 (b) Three members who are not employed by the parish police jury who
13 have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of
14 juveniles.

15 (2) One member who is employed by the sheriff's office of the parish
16 having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration
17 of juveniles.

18 (3) One member who is employed by office of the district attorney of the
19 parish having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or
20 incarceration of juveniles.

21 B. The members of the board of commissioners shall serve without salary
22 or per diem but the board may authorize reasonable travel allowances for
23 members in the performance of their official duties.

24 §1109.23. Purpose

25 The purpose of the commission shall be to assist and afford opportunities
26 to preadjudicatory and postadjudicatory children who enter the juvenile justice
27 system to become productive, law-abiding citizens of the community, parish,
28 and state through the establishment of rehabilitative programs within a
29 structured environment, and to provide physical facilities and related services

1 for children throughout the district.

2 §1109.24. Board of commissioners; officers; meetings

3 A. The board of commissioners shall elect a president, a secretary, and
4 a treasurer, whose duties in addition to those provided by this Subpart shall be
5 established by the board. If the board so decides, one commissioner may serve
6 as both secretary and treasurer, but in any event the treasurer shall furnish
7 bond in an amount and in accordance with terms and conditions fixed by the
8 board. The board may also elect an executive committee, composed of not more
9 than five members, and establish its duties and responsibilities.

10 B. The board shall fix a time and place for the holding of its regular
11 meetings. Additional regular or special meetings may be held upon the call of
12 the president or of three of the commissioners. All meetings of the board shall
13 be held at the domicile of the board and shall be governed by the provisions of
14 R.S. 42:11 et seq.. The board shall hold at least one regular meeting in each
15 calendar month; however, the board may meet less frequently but not less than
16 once each calendar quarter if it establishes an executive committee and requires
17 it to hold regular meetings at least once in each calendar month.

18 C. A majority of the current members of the board shall constitute a
19 quorum. A quorum shall be required to transact business and all actions and
20 resolutions of the board must be approved by a majority of the quorum present.

21 §1109.25. Board; general authority

22 A. The board may purchase or otherwise acquire, construct, reconstruct,
23 rehabilitate, improve, repair, operate, lease as lessor or lessee, manage, and
24 administer or enter into contracts for the management, administration, and
25 operation of a juvenile detention facility or facilities, shelter-care facility or
26 facilities, or other juvenile justice facilities as are useful, necessary, expedient,
27 or convenient to carry out the plans and purposes of the commission and for the
28 orderly conduct of its business. These facilities may include but are not limited
29 to office facilities, parking facilities, diagnostic facilities, dormitories, and other

1 residential facilities for delinquent, neglected, or abused children or children in
2 need of care or supervision, or in need of services as provided by law as well as
3 for employees, patrons, visitors, and relatives of children who may enter the
4 juvenile justice system or who are in need of care or supervision or services. In
5 addition, the commission may lease, purchase, or acquire by donation or
6 otherwise, any property, immovable or movable, tangible or intangible, from
7 any person, firm, or corporation, including the state and its agencies and
8 political subdivisions.

9 B. The board may authorize and approve, upon such terms as it may
10 deem advisable, contracts of employment for a superintendent or administrator
11 and other necessary personnel and contracts for legal, financial, engineering,
12 and other professional services necessary or expedient for the conduct of its
13 affairs.

14 **§1109.26. Board; domicile; power to levy taxes, incur debt, issue bonds**

15 A. The board of commissioners shall be domiciled in the parish and shall
16 have the power to sue and be sued. In the exercise of its powers to control,
17 administer, and manage the affairs of the district, the board may incur debt and
18 issue bonds, and it may levy taxes in the manner provided in this Subpart and
19 pursuant to Article VI, Sections 30 and 32 of the Constitution of Louisiana or
20 any other constitutional or statutory authority. The board generally may
21 perform any function and exercise any power necessary, requisite, or proper for
22 the administration and management of the affairs of the commission, and it
23 specifically may cooperate with juvenile courts and other courts and public
24 agencies within the parish and aid and assist in all ways authorized by law to
25 carry out the purposes and responsibilities for which it is established.

26 B. In addition to the general powers conferred herein, in order to obtain
27 the necessary funds to carry out its purposes, duties, and responsibilities, and
28 in order to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate a juvenile facility or
29 facilities and related services and programs throughout the territorial

1 jurisdiction of the parish, the commission may incur debt and issue general
 2 obligation bonds within the limitations prescribed by Article VI, Section 33 of
 3 the Constitution of Louisiana and other applicable constitutional or statutory
 4 authority, but only when authorized by a majority of the electors in the parish
 5 of Rapides who vote thereon in an election held for that purpose in accordance
 6 with laws governing such elections.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

DIGEST

SB 421 Original

2024 Regular Session

Luneau

Proposed law creates a renaissance district in any parish having a population of more than 129,000 and less than 132,000 persons, which shall be a political subdivision of the state with a territorial jurisdiction throughout the parish to be governed by a board of commissioners.

Provides that the board of commissioners be composed of seven commissioners and that each be a qualified elector and domiciled in the parish.

Proposed law provides that the board of commissioners be appointed for four year terms as follows:

- (1) Five members will be appointed by the parish police jury as follows:
 - (a) Two members appointed from an existing renaissance home board of directors as long as that board exists, after which time two members will be appointed from the residents of the parish who are not employed by the parish police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
 - (b) Three members who are not employed by the parish police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (2) One member who is employed by the sheriff's office of the parish and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (3) One member who is employed by the office of the district attorney of the parish and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

Provides that the members of the board of commissioners serve without a salary or per diem but authorizes the board to provide reasonable travel allowances for members in the performance of their official duties.

Proposed law provides for the commissioner to assist and afford opportunities to preadjudicatory and postadjudicatory children who enter the juvenile justice system to become productive, law-abiding citizens of the community, parish, and state through the establishment of rehabilitative programs within a structured environment and the provision of physical facilities and related services for children throughout the parish.

Proposed law authorizes the board to elect a president, a secretary, and a treasurer, whose duties are established by the board. Requires that the board secretary furnish bond in an amount fixed by the board. Provides for an executive committee of the board composed of not more than five members.

Proposed law provides for regular meetings of the board with one regular meeting at least monthly and provides that a majority of the members constitutes a quorum and that all actions and resolutions be approved by a quorum present.

Proposed law authorizes the board to purchase or otherwise acquire, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, improve, repair, operate, lease as lessor or lessee, manage, and administer or enter into contracts for the management, administration, and operation of a juvenile detention facility or facilities, shelter care facility or facilities, or such other juvenile justice facilities as are useful, necessary, expedient, or convenient to carry out the plans and purposes of the commission and for the orderly conduct of its business. These facilities may include but are not limited to office facilities, parking facilities, diagnostic facilities, dormitories, and other residential facilities for delinquent, neglected, or abused children or children in need of care or supervision, or in need of services as provided by law as well as for employees, patrons, visitors, and relatives of children who may enter the juvenile justice system or who are in need of care or supervision or services. In addition, the commission may lease, purchase, or acquire by donation or otherwise, any property, immovable or movable, tangible or intangible, from any person, firm, or corporation, including the state and its agencies and political subdivisions.

Authorizes the board to execute contracts of employment for a superintendent or administrator and other necessary personnel and contracts for legal, financial, engineering, and other professional services necessary or expedient for the conduct of its affairs.

Proposed law authorizes the board to incur debt and issue bonds, and it may levy taxes in the manner provided by law.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 15:1109.21-1109.26)