
DIGEST

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HB 182 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Travis Johnson

Abstract: Creates the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District as a political subdivision of the state for purposes of cooperative economic development.

Proposed law creates the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District as a political subdivision of the state for purposes of cooperative economic development. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the district is governed by a seven-member board of commissioners appointed as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by the mayor of the town of Ferriday.
- (2) Two members appointed by the governing authority of the town of Ferriday.
- (3) One member appointed by the chief executive officer of Concordia Bank & Trust.
- (4) One member appointed by the chief executive officer of Delta Bank.
- (5) One member appointed by the governing board of the Delta Museum.

Provides that members serve three-year staggered terms.

Proposed law provides relative to the powers and duties of the district, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
- (3) To acquire by gift, grant, purchase, or lease, all property, including servitudes or rights-of-way.
- (4) To receive by gift, grant, or donation, any sum of money, including rural development funds, or property, aid, or assistance from the U.S., the state of La., or any political subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.
- (5) To enter into contracts for the purchase, lease, acquisition, construction, maintenance, and

improvement of works and facilities necessary in connection with the purposes of the district.

- (6) To regulate the imposition of fees and rentals charged by the district for its facilities and for services rendered by it.
- (7) To appoint officers, agents, and employees, prescribe their duties, and fix their compensation.

Proposed law requires the board to prepare a plan(s) specifying public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished, constructed, or acquired which may be improvements, facilities, and services the town is authorized to provide pursuant to the constitution and laws of the state.

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

Proposed law authorizes the district to levy a sales and use tax, subject to voter approval, not to exceed 0.2%.

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 proposed law and present law (Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33) which is derived from any project or projects of the district. Prohibits the use of tax increments without the consent of the particular local governmental subdivision or tax recipient body and without the approval of a majority of the qualified electors of the town of Ferriday voting in an election conducted in accordance with the general election laws on a date provided for gubernatorial, congressional, or municipal primary elections.

Proposed law specifies that a "tax increment" consists of that portion of any tax, excluding a hotel occupancy tax, levied within the district by a local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body determined and pledged in the manner provided for in present law (Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33). Provides that if the proceeds of any tax have been expressly dedicated to another purpose set forth in a proposition approved by the electorate of the local governmental subdivision or other tax recipient body, then the tax proceeds shall not be used as a tax increment until a proposition which authorizes such use is submitted to and approved by the electorate.

Effective July 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.70.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and

Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Require the tax proposition to appear on ballots at an election held on a date that corresponds with the dates of gubernatorial, congressional, or municipal and ward primary elections.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add two members to the board.
2. Remove provision for the dissolution of the district after debts are paid.