

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON

DISTRICTS/SPECIAL: Provides relative to the Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:342(B) and (I)(2) and to enact R.S. 3:341(E), relative to the
3 Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District; to establish the domicile of
4 the district; to provide for residency requirements of the district director; to provide
5 relative to ex officio members without voting rights; and to provide for related
6 matters.

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

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 3:342(B) and (I)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
12 3:341(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §341. Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District; creation; purpose;
14 territorial jurisdiction; domicile

15 * * *

16 E. The domicile of the district shall be Concordia Parish.

17 §342. Board of commissioners; members; officers; personal immunity

18 * * *

19 B.(1) Members shall serve during their tenure in the offices listed in
20 Subsection A of this Section.

1 (2) The presidents of the Louisiana Tech University, University of Louisiana
2 at Monroe, Southern University System, Louisiana State University, and Grambling
3 State University shall serve as ex officio members without voting rights.

4 * * *

5 I.

6 * * *

7 (2) The district director, hired after July 1, ~~2023~~ 2024, shall be a resident of
8 the state, ~~and have been domiciled in the district for the preceding two years prior~~
9 ~~to employment.~~ The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to the district
10 director employed prior to July 1, ~~2023~~ 2024.

11 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 150 Engrossed 2024 Regular Session Travis Johnson

Abstract: Establishes the domicile of the Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District and makes certain members of the board of commissioners ex officio members without voting rights. Further removes the requirement that the district director be domiciled in the district within a specified period.

Proposed law specifies that Concordia Parish is the domicile of the district.

Present law specifies that the district is governed by a board of commissioners, consisting of 26 members. In pertinent part, the membership includes the following university presidents:

- (1) The president of La. Tech University or his designee.
- (2) The president of the University of La. at Monroe or his designee.
- (3) The president of the Southern University System or his designee.
- (4) The president of the La. State University System or his designee.
- (5) The president of Grambling State University or his designee.

Proposed law removes the voting rights of the presidents of La. Tech University, University of La. at Monroe, Southern University System, La. State University, and Grambling State University and their designees makes them ex officio members.

Present law requires that a district director hired after July 1, 2023, be a resident of the state and have been domiciled in the district for the preceding two years prior to employment.

Proposed law modifies present law by removing the requirement that the district director hired after July 1, 2023 be domiciled in the district for two preceding years prior to employment.

(Amends R.S. 3:342(B) and (I)(2); Adds R.S. 3:341(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Make the following members of the board ex officio members without voting rights: the presidents of La. Tech University or his designee; the president of the University of La. at Monroe or his designee; the president of the Southern University System or his designee; the president of the Louisiana State University System or his designee; and the president of Grambling State University or his designee.
2. Remove the requirement that a district director hired after July 1, 2024 establish residency in the district within three months from hiring.
3. Make technical changes.