

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 295

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON AND SENATORS CLOUD, JACKSON-ANDREWS,
AND JENKINS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:2740.70.6, relative to the city of Shreveport; to create the Shreveport I-20
3 Economic Development District; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose,
4 governance, and powers and duties of the district; and to provide for related matters.

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

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.70.6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §2740.70.6. Shreveport I-20 Economic Development District

11 A. There is hereby created within the city of Shreveport, as more specifically
12 provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate which shall
13 be known as the Shreveport I-20 Economic Development District, referred to in this
14 Section as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as
15 defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

16 B.(1) The boundaries of the district shall include the area with the following
17 perimeter: Begin at the intersection of the southwesterly right-of-way line of
18 Common Street with the north right-of-way line of Lake Street and a point on the
19 northwesterly right-of-way line of Kansas City Railroad; Run thence Southeasterly
20 along said southwesterly right-of-way line of Common Street to the south
21 right-of-way line of Stoner Avenue; Run thence West along said south right-of-way

1 line of Stoner Avenue and Murphy Street to the easterly right-of-way line of Texas
2 Avenue; Run thence Southwesterly along said easterly right-of-way line of Texas
3 Avenue to the east right-of-way line of Sestin Street; Run thence South along said
4 east right-of-way line of Sestin Street to the north right-of-way line of the Kansas
5 City Railroad; Run thence West along said north right-of-way line of Kansas City
6 Railroad to the east right-of-way line of Park Avenue; Run thence North along said
7 east right-of-way line of Park Avenue to the southeasterly right-of-way line of I-20;
8 Run thence Northeasterly along said southeasterly right-of-way line of I-20 to the
9 westerly right-of-way line of Linwood Avenue; Run thence Southeasterly along said
10 westerly right-of-way line of Linwood Avenue to the northerly right-of-way line of
11 Texas Avenue; Run thence Northwesterly along the northerly and westerly
12 right-of-way line of Texas Avenue to the northeasterly right-of-way line of Hope
13 Street; Run thence Southeasterly along said northeasterly right-of-way line of Hope
14 Street to the northwesterly right-of-way line of Kansas City Railroad; Run thence
15 Northeasterly along said northwesterly right-of-way line of Kansas City Railroad to
16 the Point of Beginning.

17 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any existing
18 pathways of Interstate 49 shall be excluded from the boundaries of the district.

19 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the pathway
20 of Texas Street beginning at Murphy Street to the east and ending at Linwood
21 Avenue to the west shall be excluded from the boundaries of the district.

22 C. The district is created to provide for cooperative economic and
23 community development among the district, the city, the state, and the owners of
24 property in the district, to enhance the development of and improvement to the
25 property within the area of the district, to develop stable and more extensive
26 employment opportunities, to improve infrastructure, and to promote the overall
27 welfare of the citizens of the district.

28 D.(1) In order to provide for the orderly development of the district and
29 effect the purposes of the district, the district shall be administered and governed by

1 a five-member board of commissioners, subject to senate confirmation, referred to
2 in this Section as the "board", composed as follows:

3 (a) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses all or
4 the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.

5 (b) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district
6 encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one
7 member.

8 (c) The governing board of the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
9 shall appoint one member who is a member of the chamber of commerce.

10 (d) The governing board of the Shreveport-Bossier African American
11 Chamber of Commerce shall appoint one member who is a member of the chamber
12 of commerce.

13 (e) The mayor of the city of Shreveport or his designee.

14 (2)(a) Members appointed pursuant to Subparagraphs (1)(a) through (d) of
15 this Subsection shall serve three-year terms after serving initial terms as provided in
16 this Subparagraph. Two members shall serve one-year initial terms, one member
17 shall serve a two-year initial term, and one member shall serve a three-year initial
18 term as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board.

19 (b) The member serving pursuant to Subparagraph (1)(e) of this Subsection
20 shall serve during his term of office. Any designee serving on the board shall serve
21 at the pleasure of the designating authority.

22 (3) Any vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of the term for which
23 a member of the board has been appointed shall be filled by appointment in the same
24 manner as the original appointment for the unexpired term.

25 (4) The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, a
26 secretary-treasurer, and other officers as it deems necessary. The duties of the
27 officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board. The bylaws shall be
28 subject to approval of the Senators representing Districts 31, 36, 38, and 39 prior to
29 being adopted by the board.

1 (5) The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the
2 secretary-treasurer of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall
3 be in the official custody of the board.

4 (6) The board shall adopt rules and regulations as it deems necessary or
5 advisable for conducting its business affairs. Rules and regulations of the board
6 relative to the notice and conduct of meetings shall conform to applicable law. The
7 board shall hold regular meetings as provided for in the bylaws and may hold special
8 meetings at such times and places within the district as prescribed in the bylaws.

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

12 (8) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be
13 reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance
14 of the district.

15 E.(1) The district, acting by and through its board, shall have and exercise
16 all powers of a political subdivision necessary or convenient for carrying out its
17 objects and purposes, including but not limited to the following:

18 (a) To sue and be sued.

19 (b) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

20 (c) To acquire by gift, grant, purchase, or lease all property, including rights-
21 of-way; to hold and use any franchise or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible
22 or intangible, or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for carrying out the
23 objects and purposes of the district.

24 (d) To receive by gift, grant, or donation, any sum of money, or property,
25 aid, or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any political
26 subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.

27 (e) To enter into contracts for the purchase, lease, acquisition, construction,
28 and improvement of works and facilities necessary in connection with the purposes
29 of the district and to mortgage its properties and enter into leases and other
30 agreements on terms the board approves.

1 (f) To require and issue licenses with respect to properties and facilities
 2 owned by the district.

3 (g) To regulate the imposition of fees and rentals charged by the district for
 4 facilities owned and services rendered by it and to impose fees on the use or
 5 occupancy of any other property within but not owned by the district with the
 6 consent of the owner of such property.

7 (h) To appoint officers, agents, and employees, prescribe their duties, and fix
 8 their compensation.

9 (i) To enter into cooperative endeavor agreements with any other party,
 10 public or private, to accomplish the purposes of this Subpart.

11 (2) The district shall have no power of taxation.

12 (3) The district shall have no power with respect to any decision regarding
 13 the planning and operation of the I-49 inner city connector or the Amtrak high speed
 14 rail.

15 F.(1) The board shall prepare or cause to be prepared a plan or plans
 16 specifying the public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished,
 17 constructed, or acquired for the district and shall conduct public hearings, publish
 18 notice with respect thereto, and disseminate information as it, in the exercise of its
 19 sound discretion, deems appropriate or advisable and in the public interest.

20 (2) Any plan may specify and encompass any public services, capital
 21 improvements, and facilities which the city of Shreveport is authorized to undertake,
 22 furnish, or provide under the constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, and the
 23 specified public services, improvements, and facilities shall be special and in
 24 addition to all services, improvements, and facilities which the city is then furnishing
 25 or providing or may then or in the future be obligated to furnish or provide within the
 26 district.

27 (3) Any plan shall include an estimate of the annual and total cost of
 28 acquiring, constructing, or providing the services, improvements, or facilities set
 29 forth therein.

1 G. Budget. (1) The board shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with
2 the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

3 (2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant
4 to R.S. 24:513.

5 H. All state officers and agencies are authorized at their discretion to render
6 such services to the district within their respective functions as may be requested by
7 the district. In addition, the district and such agencies are authorized to enter into
8 such contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, or other agreements necessary or
9 convenient to carry out the purposes of this Section.

10 I. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of this
11 Section shall be effective until August 1, 2029.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____