
DIGEST

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HB 350 Original

2025 Regular Session

Brass

Abstract: Provides for appointments and eligibility for commissioners of drainage districts and restricts the authority for the appointment of commissioners to parish governing authorities. Provides for the removal and reorganization processes of commissioners.

Present law provides that drainage district commissioners or their spouses must own real estate within the district valued at \$500 or must be the representative of a corporation, who may be an officer designated to represent the corporation by its board of directors, within the district that owns land in the district valued at \$500.

Proposed law modifies present law by eliminating the provision that the spouse of the commissioner may own real estate within the district to meet the eligibility and it adds limited liability corporations in addition to corporations that the commissioner may represent.

Present law provides that a drainage district commissioner is not required to be a resident of the district and may hold another office without violating dual office holder laws.

Proposed law retains the provisions of present law for dual office holders but further allows a drainage district commissioner to serve as commissioner in more than one drainage district without violating dual office holder laws.

Present law provides that, in the ordinance creating a drainage district, police juries must appoint five commissioners who meet the qualifications of present law with exceptions for Lafourche Parish Drainage District No. 1 and Wax Lake East Drainage District in which the police jury must appoint seven commissioners.

Proposed law retains the provisions of present law with respect to the exceptions but changes the requirement for the creation of drainage districts and appointments of commissioners from the police jury to the parish governing authority.

Present law provides that a police jury must appoint commissioners upon the recommendation of the majority of landowners in a proposed district.

Proposed law provides that a parish governing authority must appoint the initial five commissioners that meet qualification of present law by a majority vote at a properly noticed meeting with the presence of a quorum.

Present law provides that a police jury creating a drainage district must appoint one commissioner annually after the creation and the commissioner appointed must serve a term of five years or until his successor is appointed and qualified.

Proposed law retains provision of present law but changes the responsibility for appointing commissioners from the police jury to the parish governing authority.

Present law provides that the secretary of the board of commissioners notify the police jury of the expiration of a commissioner's term.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of the board of commissioners notify the parish governing authority of the expiration of a commissioner's term.

Proposed law provides that the term of commissioners appointed before proposed law takes effect must remain unaffected.

Proposed law removes the requirement that the recommendation of landowners for appointment of commissioners be written and signed by the landowners.

(Amends R.S. 38:1607(A)(2), 1608(A) and (C), 1609, 1758, and 1759(A); Repeals R.S. 38:1608(D))