

SENATE BILL NO. 286

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 33:2740.3(A) and 2740.3(A)(2), (C)(1), (F), and (H) and to enact R.S. 33:2740.3(G)(5), relative to the Downtown Development District of the city of New Orleans; to provide relative to the appointment of members of the board of commissioners of the Downtown Development District of the city of New Orleans; to provide relative to the term of the special tax authorized to be levied by the city of New Orleans for the district; to provide for the disbursement of the proceeds of the special tax; to provide for the classification of the district as a political subdivision; to provide relative to the payment of bonds payable from the special tax; to provide for voter approval for the levy of taxes or the issuance of bonds; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 33:2740.3(A) and 2740.3(A)(2), (C)(1), (F), and (H) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 33:2740.3(G)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2740.3. The Downtown Development District of the City of New Orleans; creation, composition, and powers; preparation of plans; levy of ad valorem taxes and issuance of bonds

A.(1) There shall be, and there hereby is, created a special taxing district, **which shall be a political subdivision**, within the city of New Orleans comprised of all the territory within the following prescribed boundaries:

\* \* \*

(2) The special taxing district shall be **a political subdivision of the state** known as and is hereby designated the Downtown Development District of the City of New Orleans, hereinafter in this Section referred to as the "district", the creation

1 to be effective January 1, 1975.

2 \* \* \*

3 C.(1) The board shall be composed of eleven members, at least five of whom  
4 shall be qualified voters of the city of New Orleans, and shall have their principal  
5 place of business in, or own property in, the district. Each board member shall be  
6 subject to confirmation by the New Orleans city council.

7 (a) The members of the board shall possess additional qualifications and shall  
8 be appointed as follows:

9 (i) Two of the members shall be appointed by the mayor of the city of New  
10 Orleans.

11 (ii) One of the members shall be appointed by the New Orleans city council  
12 member representing ~~City Council~~ District B of the New Orleans city council.

13 (iii) One of the members shall be appointed by New Orleans & Company.

14 (iv) Two of the members shall be appointed by the New Orleans Chamber of  
15 Commerce, ~~subject to approval by the president of the New Orleans city council.~~

16 (v) One of the members shall be appointed by the Greater New Orleans Hotel  
17 and Lodging Association, ~~subject to approval by the president of the New Orleans~~  
18 ~~city council.~~

19 (vi) One of the members shall be appointed by the Louisiana Restaurant  
20 Association, ~~subject to approval by the president of the New Orleans city council.~~

21 (vii) One of the members shall be appointed by the member or members of  
22 the Louisiana House of Representatives ~~who represent~~ representing the district.

23 (viii) Two of the members shall be appointed by the member or members of  
24 the Louisiana Senate ~~who represent~~ representing the district.

25 (b) ~~Upon the first meeting, the members of the board shall be randomly~~  
26 ~~allotted terms as follows: three members for one year each, three members for two~~  
27 ~~years each, three members for three years each, and two members for four years~~  
28 ~~each; the length of the term for each individual appointed to be determined by lot.~~  
29 ~~They shall serve until their successors have been appointed and qualified. Each board~~  
30 ~~member shall be required to annually provide an affidavit attesting that the board~~

1 member has a principal place of business or owns property in the district. Using the  
 2 initial staggered terms of each appointed member as established by the district  
 3 in September 2025, any newly appointed or reappointed board member shall  
 4 serve a term of five years, provided that if at the expiration of any term of office  
 5 of any board member a successor thereto has not been elected, then the member  
 6 whose term of office has expired shall continue to hold office until the successor  
 7 shall be appointed.

8 (c) ~~The members of the board thereafter appointed by the mayor upon the~~  
 9 ~~expiration of the respective terms of the initial appointees shall be selected and~~  
 10 ~~appointed in accordance with the procedures in this Subsection prescribed for the~~  
 11 ~~selection and appointment of the original members for the term of five years.~~  
 12 ~~However, vacancies shall be filled from nominations submitted by the New Orleans~~  
 13 ~~Chamber of Commerce in the following manner. The mayor shall select and appoint~~  
 14 ~~one of two names submitted to him by such council for each of the five vacancies for~~  
 15 ~~which the council is to submit nominees. If the selection and appointment by the~~  
 16 ~~mayor does not take place within thirty days following submission of the nominees~~  
 17 ~~by the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the selection and appointment shall be~~  
 18 ~~made by the city council. Any vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of the~~  
 19 ~~term for which a member of the board has been appointed shall be filled in~~  
 20 ~~accordance with the procedures as set forth herein. However, the New Orleans~~  
 21 ~~Chamber of Commerce may submit additional nominees to either the mayor or the~~  
 22 ~~city council, as applicable, until all vacancies pursuant to this Subsection are filled.~~

23 \* \* \*

24 F. The city council, in addition to all other taxes which it is now or hereafter  
 25 may be authorized by law to levy and collect, is hereby authorized to levy and collect  
 26 as hereinafter specifically provided for a term not to exceed fifty years ~~from and after~~  
 27 ~~the date that the first tax is levied pursuant to the provisions of this Section~~, in the  
 28 same manner and at the same time as all other ad valorem taxes on property subject  
 29 to taxation by the city are levied and collected, a special ad valorem tax upon all  
 30 taxable real property situated within the boundaries of the ~~core area development~~

1 district. ~~The number of mills hereby authorized shall be computed by dividing the~~  
 2 ~~number of mills levied and collected by the city of New Orleans for general~~  
 3 ~~operating purposes for the year 1977 into the number of mills levied and collected~~  
 4 ~~by the city of New Orleans for general operating purposes for the year 1978 and~~  
 5 ~~multiplying the result by ten. No such tax shall be levied until a plan requiring or~~  
 6 ~~requesting the levy of a tax is finally and conclusively adopted in accordance with~~  
 7 ~~the procedures prescribed in this Section.~~ The proceeds of the tax shall be used solely  
 8 and exclusively for the purposes and benefit of the district. **The Beginning with**  
 9 **revenues of such tax for the year 2027, and thereafter, the proceeds of the tax**  
 10 shall be paid over to the ~~Board of Liquidation, City Debt,~~ **district** day by day as the  
 11 same are collected and received by the appropriate officials of the city of New  
 12 Orleans and maintained **by the district** in a separate account. ~~The tax proceeds shall~~  
 13 ~~be paid out by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, solely for the purposes herein~~  
 14 ~~provided upon warrants or drafts drawn on the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, by~~  
 15 ~~the appropriate officials of the city and the treasurer of the district.~~

16 G.(1) \* \* \*

17 **(5) In the event that bonds payable from the special tax authorized,**  
 18 **levied, and collected pursuant to the provisions of this Section have been issued,**  
 19 **the district shall transfer to the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, from the first**  
 20 **revenues of such tax received in any calendar year, a sum equal to the principal**  
 21 **and interest payable on the bonds in that calendar year. After such amount of**  
 22 **the revenues of the tax have actually been transferred to the Board of**  
 23 **Liquidation, City Debt, then all revenues of the tax remaining in that year shall**  
 24 **be retained by the district and free for expenditure by the district for the**  
 25 **purposes for which the tax was authorized by the voters.**

26 H. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary, no tax  
 27 authorized in this Section shall be levied and no bonds shall be issued unless and  
 28 until the maximum amount of the tax and the maximum amount of the bonds has  
 29 been approved by a majority of the electors **of the district** voting thereon ~~in the city~~  
 30 ~~of New Orleans~~ in an election called for that purpose. No bonds issued pursuant to

