
DIGEST

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Claitor

SB No. 199

Proposed law creates the Jefferson Place/Bocage Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish (EBR) as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of promoting and encouraging security in the area included within the district and promoting and encouraging the beautification and overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries.

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

- (1) The president of the Jefferson Place/Bocage Homeowners Association (association).
- (2) Four members appointed by the board of directors of the association.
- (3) One member appointed by the mayor-president of EBR from a list of nominations submitted by the association.
- (4) One member appointed by the member of the governing authority of EBR whose council district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district from a list of nominations submitted by the association.
- (5) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (6) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

Proposed law requires that all members be residents of the district. Provides that appointed members shall serve four-year staggered terms. Provides that the president of the association shall serve during his term of office. Board members are eligible for reappointment. Additionally provides that members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance of the district, not to exceed \$100 per year.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary or advisable for conducting its business affairs. Requires that rules and regulations of the board relative to the notice and conduct of meetings conform to applicable law, relative to open meetings. Requires the board to hold regular meetings as provided for in the bylaws and authorizes the board to hold special meetings at such times and places within the district as provided in the bylaws.

Proposed law provides for the powers and duties of the district and authorizes the district, through the board, to perform or have performed any function or activity necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the district.

Proposed law authorizes governing authority of EBR, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district in an amount that is requested by the board. Requires that the fee be a flat fee per improved parcel of land not to exceed \$540 per year for each improved parcel. Provides that the fee shall be \$500 for the first calendar year. Authorizes renewal of the fee after 10 years.

Proposed law provides that no fee can be imposed upon any parcel whose owner qualifies for and receives the special assessment level provided by present constitution. The fee is collected at the same time and in the same manner as property taxes. The proceeds of the

fee must be used solely and exclusively for the purpose and benefit of the district; however, the EBR sheriff may retain 1% of the amount collected as a collection fee.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law, and provides that the district is subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law authorizes the dissolution of the district if a majority of the area covered by the district becomes included in another district that serves similar purposes but includes additional parcels of property adjacent to the district, if approved by the affirmative vote of not less than five members of the board. If the district is so dissolved, the funds of the district that relate to the portion of the district that is included in the new district, together with any other funds collected by EBR that relate to such portion of the district, must be transferred to the new district to be used for purposes of the new district. The remaining portion of funds, if any, are to be transmitted by the board in equal parts to the state and to EBR Parish and such funds must be used only for law enforcement of the area that was formerly within the district but is not included in the new district. If the district is dissolved, authority for the imposition of the parcel fee ceases.

Proposed law requires the district to indemnify its officers and board members to the fullest extent permitted by present law, as fully as if the district were a nonprofit corporation governed thereby, and as may be provided in the district's bylaws. Protects board members or officers from liability for monetary damages for breach of duty to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district, except in certain circumstances.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.12)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill.

1. Makes changes to the name and purpose of the district.
2. Makes changes to the boundaries of the district.
3. Changes the maximum amount of the district's parcel fee from \$500 to \$540.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the engrossed bill.

1. Makes proposed law effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.