

Present law creates the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority.

Present law provides that the boundaries of the authority will encompass all of the lands in the parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion.

Proposed law would have retained present law except that it would have removed Vermilion Parish from the boundaries of the authority.

Present law provides that the governor shall appoint, subject to Senate confirmation, nine persons to serve as commissioners as follows:

- (1) The president of Calcasieu Parish shall submit a list of six nominations, subject to ratification by the governing authority of Calcasieu Parish, and the governor shall appoint three members from the list.
- (2) The president of Cameron Parish shall submit a list of six nominations, subject to ratification by the governing authority of Cameron Parish, and the governor shall appoint three members from the list.
- (3) The president of Vermilion Parish shall submit a list of six nominations, subject to ratification by the governing authority of Vermilion Parish, and the governor shall appoint three members from the list.

Proposed law would have retained present law except that it would have removed the nominations and appointments from Vermilion Parish, which would have changed the number of commissioners appointed by the governor to serve on the board from nine members to seven members.

Proposed law would have provided for the Vermilion Parish Levee, Hurricane Protection, and Conservation District, which shall encompass all of the lands in the parish of Vermilion.

Proposed law would have required that the governor appoint a board of commissioners, subject to Senate confirmation, consisting of nine members who reside in the portion of Vermilion Parish located within the district.

Proposed law would have provided that the governor will appoint, subject to Senate confirmation, nine persons to serve as commissioners as follows:

- (1) Two members from the Vermilion Parish Police Jury.
- (2) One member from the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal Port Commission.
- (3) One member to be appointed from each of the following municipalities within Vermilion Parish, which includes the city of Abbeville, the city of Kaplan, the town of Erath, the town of Gueydan, the town of Delcambre, and the village of Maurice.

Proposed law would have provided for vacancies to be filled in the same manner as the original appointments provided in proposed law.

Proposed law would have required commissioners to determine by lot their terms of office at the first meeting, which would have commenced immediately upon appointment and expired respectively as follows: three members in two years, three members in three years, and three members in four years.

Proposed law would have provided that all commissioners appointed after the initial appointments, shall be appointed in accordance with proposed law for staggered terms of four years, which would have expired on July 1 of the fourth year, or until the successor is appointed to take office. Further provided that no member shall serve more than three consecutive four-year terms.

Proposed law would have provided that if a commissioner is appointed to fill more than ½ of an unexpired term, that person shall be eligible to serve no more than two additional consecutive terms.

Proposed law would have required the board to establish the official domicile of the board.

Proposed law would have provided for taxing authority, with restrictions regarding the city of Abbeville's home rule charter.

(Proposed to amend R.S. 38:291(AA)(1) and (2); Proposed to add R.S. 38:291(CC))

VETO MESSAGE: "The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has been actively and aggressively working to consolidate levee districts based on geographical, hydrological, and topographical criteria. The membership of the Chenier Plain Authority corresponds with the geographical area within the Southwest Coastal Louisiana Feasibility study that is underway and will yield billions of dollars in basin-scale protection and restoration of the Chenier Plain communities and ecosystem. Having one levee authority within the vicinity of this major study area is critical to the successful implementation and management of the project. Additionally, in 2009, I signed Act 320, which authorized the CPRA to enter into certain agreements with parish governing authorities located within the coastal area for coastal protection, flood control and restoration projects. This law gives the parish governing authority any and all powers of a levee district. In the case of House Bill 334, I question the benefit of creating a new independent levee district when the parish governing authority already has the power to carry out these functions.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 334 and hereby return it to the House."