
DIGEST

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Connick

HB No. 211

Abstract: Authorizes the governing authority of any parish or municipality to create a local transportation district. Provides for the boundaries, governance, powers and duties, and funding of the district, including the authority to levy a motor vehicle license fee upon approval by voters within the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of any parish or municipality to create a local transportation district as a political subdivision of the state. Provides that the district's boundaries and board of commissioners are as provided in the ordinance creating the district. Requires board members to have an expertise in one of the following areas: engineering, finance, law, or management and further requires members to serve without compensation.

Proposed law provides for the district's powers and duties, including the following:

- (1) To have a corporate seal.
- (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, device, lease, or other mode of acquisition and dispose of immovable and movable property of every kind within its territorial jurisdiction.
- (3) To make and enter into contracts, conveyances, mortgages, deeds or trusts, bonds, and leases in the carrying out of its corporate objectives.
- (4) To incur debts and borrow money, but no debt so incurred shall be payable from any source other than the revenues to be derived by the district.

Proposed law authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect an annual fee of not more than one \$1 per each \$1000 of actual value on automobiles for private use based on the actual value of the vehicle but no less than \$20 per automobile. Requires the district to impose, on other motor vehicles, an annual license fee based upon carrying capacity, horsepower, value, or weight. Further requires the district to provide the same classifications and rates as provided in present law (R.S. 47:451 et seq.).

Proposed law provides that the fee expires 10 years after the imposition of the fee, but authorizes renewal of the fee not to exceed 10 years. Requires the district to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to provide for the collection of the fee. Requires the department to remit to the district all amounts collected not later than 60 days after collection after collecting reasonable costs for collections from the proceeds of the fee.

Requires that proceeds of the fee be used solely and exclusively for the maintenance of state highways included within the district, including but not limited to capital improvements, roadway maintenance, ferryboat, terminal and landing maintenance, lighting, policing, trash collection, and landscaping.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act. Provides that the district is subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law authorizes the district to cooperate with the government of the U.S. and to contribute financially to the expense of such improvement projects as are or may be authorized or adopted by the U.S. Further authorizes the district to cooperate with all agencies, departments, and political subdivisions of the state. Further requires that any financial contributions shall supplement, not supplant, state or federal transportation funding.

Proposed law authorizes the state, its departments, agencies, and political subdivisions to cooperate with the board to make contributions or grants to the district for any of the purposes of proposed law and to enter into contracts and agreements with the district for such purposes.

Proposed law authorizes the district, pursuant to a cooperative endeavor agreement, to locate, construct, operate, and maintain any of its works or facilities over, under, through, in, or along any of the lands which are the property of the state or of any of its political subdivisions, institutions, agencies, or instrumentalities within its territorial jurisdiction. Further authorizes the district and its authorized agents and employees to enter upon any lands, waters, and premises in the district for the purpose of making surveys, examinations, and appraisals as it may deem necessary. Requires the district to make reimbursement for any actual damages resulting to any lands, waters, or premises as a result of such activities.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.20)