
The original instrument was prepared by Cathy R. Wells. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

Morrell (SB 42)

Present law creates the New Orleans Regional Business Park (NORBP) as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of stimulating industrial and commercial development in Orleans Parish and the adjacent parishes. Provides for district boundaries.

Present law provides that the district is managed by a 12-member board of commissioners with members who are qualified voters and La. residents. Provides that the board is composed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the state representative who represents House District No. 100.
- (2) One member appointed by the state representative who represents House District No. 101.
- (3) One member appointed by the state representative who represents House District No. 103.
- (4) Two members appointed by the state senator who represents Senate District No. 2.
- (5) One member appointed by the councilperson of the council district in which the NORBP is located.
- (6) Three members appointed by the mayor of the city of New Orleans.
- (7) One member appointed by the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.
- (8) One member appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development.
- (9) One member appointed by the board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans.

Proposed law makes changes to the board's appointing authorities and membership and increases board membership to 13. Retains qualified voter and La. residency requirements and additionally requires members to be district residents. Provides for the board to be composed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the U.S. Representative who represents Louisiana's 2nd congressional district.

- (2) One member appointed by the state representative who represents House District No. 99.
- (3) One member appointed by the state representative who represents House District No. 100.
- (4) One member appointed by the state senator who represents Senate District No. 3.
- (5) One member appointed by the state senator who represents Senate District No. 4.
- (6) One member appointed by the councilperson who represents Council District D.
- (7) One member appointed by the councilperson who represents Council District E.
- (8) Three members appointed by the mayor of the city. One shall be appointed from each list of nominations submitted by the Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training, the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission, and the board of commissioners for the Almonaster-Michoud Industrial District.
- (9) One member appointed by the state representative who represents House District No. 103.
- (10) The chairman of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce or his designee.
- (11) The board of commissioners for the Port of New Orleans shall appoint one member.

Present law provides that board members shall serve three-year terms.

Proposed law reduces the term of office to two years and requires members to serve without compensation. Additionally provides that on the effective date of proposed law, the terms of all members of the board serving on such date shall terminate, and the board shall be appointed according to proposed law.

Present law provides that if any vacancy is not filled by a nominating entity within 60 days of written notification, the board shall appoint an interim successor until filled by the nominating entity. Provides that if the board fails to fill the vacancy within the next 60 days then the mayor shall make the appointment. Provides that any member appointed by the board or mayor may be replaced by the appointing authority at any time.

Proposed law removes present law and provides that if a vacancy is not filled by the nominating entity within 60 days of written notification, then the board, by majority vote, shall make the appointment for the balance of the term.

Present law provides for an automatic removal of any member who has unexcused absences of 50% or more of meetings. Provides that such vacated position shall be filled by the nominating entity for the balance of the term.

Proposed law retains present law, but limits the amount of time the nominating entity has to fill the position. The vacant position must be filled within 15 days by the nominating entity or it is filled by a majority vote of the board for the balance of the term.

Proposed law provides that a majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Further requires that the board keep minutes of meetings and make them available to the public in accordance with present law.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt rules and regulations to conduct its business and affairs and further requires the board to engage assistants and employees as needed to assist the board in performing its duties.

Present law provides that any member may be removed by his appointing authority at any time with or without cause. Proposed law changes present law by providing that board members may only be removed by a majority vote of the board with cause.

Proposed law provides that the term of office of any board member appointed by a congressman, legislator, or councilperson terminates 60 days after the end of the term of office of the appointing authority. Provides that members may be reappointed in accordance with proposed law.

Present law provides that no law shall prohibit a member of the board from owning, operating, participating with, or otherwise engaging in any transaction with a business entity located within the district. Proposed law retains present law and authorizes board members to serve on the board of a private entity which enters into contracts with the district provided that the member does not receive compensation from the private entity.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:4702(B)(1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7))

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 proposed membership of the board.