
DIGEST

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Pierre

HB No. 457

Abstract: Relative to the North Lafayette Redevelopment Authority, changes the membership of the governing board of the authority and provides for terms and qualifications of board members. Provides relative to the district's boundaries.

Present law creates the North Lafayette Redevelopment Authority to provide for the utilization of appropriate private and public resources to eliminate and prevent the development or spread of slum, blighted, and distressed areas in north Lafayette. Provides that the authority is a special district and political subdivision of the state. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the authority shall be comprised of Councilmanic Districts 3 and 4 of the city of Lafayette as geographically drawn on July 14, 2008. Excludes certain properties.

Proposed law instead provides that the authority shall be comprised of the House District No. 44 and Councilmanic Districts 3 and 4 as geographically drawn on the effective date of proposed law. Otherwise retains present law relative to the exclusion of certain property.

Present law provides that the authority shall be governed by a board of nine commissioners all of whom shall reside or be employed within the authority's boundaries and seven of whom shall be qualified electors of the city as follows:

- (1) Three commissioners appointed by the state senator representing Senate District 24.
- (2) Two commissioners appointed by the La. state representative representing House District 44.
- (3) One commissioner appointed by the councilperson representing Council District 3 of the Lafayette City-Parish Council.
- (4) One commissioner appointed by the councilperson representing Council District 4 of the Lafayette City-Parish Council.
- (5) One commissioner appointed by the mayor-president of Lafayette.
- (6) The director of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

Requires members to serve five-year staggered terms without compensation but authorizes reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the authority.

Proposed law reduces the membership of the board from nine to seven. Removes two appointments granted to the state senator for Senate District No. 24. Grants an appointment to the state representative for House District 96. Removes the director of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority. Requires all board members to be residents or be employed within the jurisdiction of the authority and to be qualified electors of Lafayette Parish. Retains present law requirement that board members serve five-year staggered terms.

Present law requires the elected officials granted appointments to the board to meet within 30 days of July 1, 2008, to make board appointments. Proposed law instead requires the appointing authorities to meet within 60 days of the effective date of proposed law to make board appointments.

Present law requires that the seven commissioners appointed by elected officials represent the following organizations and industries: Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Greater Southwest La. Black Chamber of Commerce, a citizen's neighborhood association, accounting, the banking industry, and the real estate industry. Proposed law removes present law.

Present law requires that each board member be a citizen of the U.S., a domiciliary of and a qualified voter of the city of Lafayette for at least one year preceding the date of appointment, and to remain a domiciliary of and a qualified voter of the city during the entirety of the term of office. Additionally requires each board member to be of good character and to possess some skill, knowledge, or experience that will prove useful in the accomplishment of the goals of the authority. Proposed law removes present law.

Present law requires that a certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner be filed with the Lafayette Parish clerk. Provides that the certificate shall be conclusive evidence of a proper appointment. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires vacancies to be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Authorizes remaining board members to appoint an interim member until a new member is confirmed. Proposed law specifies that remaining members of the board may appoint an interim member if the appointing authority fails to appoint within 30 days. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the board to establish rules and regulations relative to the attendance and participation of members in its meetings. Authorizes the board, upon approval of a majority of its members, to provide for disqualification and automatic removal of board members should they fail to comply with the board's rules and regulations. Provides that any person removed is ineligible for reappointment to the board, unless his reappointment is confirmed unanimously by the board. Proposed law authorizes the board to adopt bylaws or other rules and regulations as it deems necessary for conducting its business affairs. Provides that a board member may be removed for cause by the appointing authority. Retains present law provision that prohibits a removed board member from being reappointed unless reappointment is confirmed unanimously by the board.

Present law grants the board the power to organize and reorganize the executive, administrative, clerical, and other departments and forces of the authority and to fix the duties, powers, and compensation of all employees, agents, and consultants of the authority. Proposed law instead grants the board power to appoint and retain all employees it deems advisable and to fix the powers, duties, and compensation of the employees.

Present law requires the board to meet in regular session once each month and to meet in special session as convened by the chairman or upon written notice signed by three members. Provides that a majority of the members of the board, not including vacancies, constitutes a quorum for the conduct of business. Proposed law requires the board to hold regular meetings and authorizes the board to hold special meetings as provided in the board's bylaws. Retains present law provision relative to a majority of members constituting a quorum but removes provision relative to vacancies.

Proposed law provides that the terms of all members of the board serving on the effective date of proposed law shall terminate on that date and requires that new board members be appointed in accordance with proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 33:4720.171(F)(1) and (G))