

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 785

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

DISTRICTS/NEIGHBORHOOD: Provides for the creation of neighborhood improvement and beautification districts in certain parishes

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:9099.3, relative to neighborhood districts; to provide for the creation of the
3 neighborhood improvement and beautification districts in certain parishes; to provide
4 relative to the purpose, governance, and funding of such districts; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 33:9099.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §9099.3. Neighborhood Improvement and Beautification Districts; certain parishes

9 A. The governing authority of any parish with a population of not less than
10 two hundred seventy-five thousand persons and not more than four hundred thirty-
11 five thousand persons, according to the latest federal decennial census, may create,
12 by ordinance, a neighborhood improvement and beautification district within any
13 neighborhood located within the parish. The district shall be a special taxing district
14 and a political subdivision as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana. The
15 boundaries of the district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the
16 neighborhood.

17 B. The primary object and purpose of the district shall be to promote and
18 encourage the improvement, beautification, and overall betterment of the
19 neighborhood located within the boundaries of the district in order to add to the

1 quality of life of district residents by maintaining property values, increasing the tax
2 base, fostering economic growth, and providing for recreational activities.

3 C.(1) The parish governing authority shall provide, in the ordinance creating
4 the district, for its name, boundaries, governance, and powers and duties, including
5 the authority to impose taxes or fees on property located within the boundaries of the
6 district. However, no tax or fee may be imposed within the district until after the
7 question of its imposition, including its purpose, rate, and duration, has been
8 approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the district who vote on the
9 proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana
10 Election Code.

11 (2) The parish governing authority may grant to the district the power to
12 perform any function which it deems appropriate for achieving the purpose of the
13 district, including the acquisition of property located within the boundaries of the
14 district. However, the district shall not be authorized to acquire property by
15 expropriation.

16 D.(1) Any district created pursuant to this Section shall be subject to audit
17 in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 24:513.

18 (2) The funds of the district shall not be used for the improvement and
19 maintenance of a security wall around the neighborhood, provision and maintenance
20 of guardhouses, or provision and improvement of security patrols in the area.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 785 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Leopold

Abstract: Authorizes the creation of neighborhood improvement and beautification districts in certain parishes. Provides for the purpose, governance, and funding of such districts.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of any parish with a population of not less than 275,000 persons and not more than 435,000 persons to create, by ordinance, a neighborhood improvement and beautification district within any neighborhood located within the parish to promote and encourage the improvement, beautification, and overall betterment of the neighborhood and aid its residents by maintaining property values,

increasing the tax base, fostering economic growth, and providing for recreational activities. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law requires the parish governing authority to provide, in the ordinance creating the district, for its name, boundaries, governance, and powers and duties, including the authority to impose taxes or fees within the district, subject to voter approval. Provides that the parish governing authority may grant to the district the power to perform any function appropriate for achieving the purpose of the district, including acquiring property located within the district. However, prohibits the district from acquiring property by expropriation and using district funds for security enhancements.

(Adds R.S. 33:9099.3)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Prohibit the district from acquiring property by expropriation.