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## DIGEST

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HB 590 Original

2019 Regular Session

Gaines

**Abstract:** Provides relative to meetings, powers, and hotel occupancy taxes levied by the River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors District.

Present law creates the River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors District and its governing authority, the River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors Commission, to attract conventions, tourists, and visitors to St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. James Parishes. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the commission to levy a hotel/motel occupancy tax at a rate not to exceed 2%. Proposed law raises maximum hotel/motel occupancy tax to 4%.

Present law requires that the commission meet at least quarterly but not more than once per month. Proposed law deletes prohibition against commission meeting more than once per month; otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides relative to the powers of the commission including:

- (1) Authorizes the commission to make capital improvements necessary to receive matching federal funds.
- (2) Authorizes the commission to do all things necessary to attract conventions, tourists, and visitors including promotion of convention facilities, tourist attractions, and other points of interest.
- (3) Prohibits the commission from exercising any function which results in competition with local retail businesses or enterprises.

Proposed law makes the following changes to the powers of the commission:

- (1) Adds the receipt of matching *state* funds as a circumstance when the commission may spend money on capital improvements.
- (2) Limits the prohibition on exercising any function which results in competition with local retail businesses or enterprises to functions which would result in *direct* competition.
- (3) Provides that the commission's power to do all things necessary to attract conventions,

tourists, and visitors includes the *management* of various points of interest and adds film studios and activities and docking facilities to such points of interest.

Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 33:4574.12(B)(6), (C)(1), and (D)(1)(a))