
DIGEST

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SB 250 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Boudreaux

Present law specifies the composition and powers of the board responsible for managing the affairs of the Opelousas Downtown Development District.

Present law provides for the boundaries of the district to be the existing Historic District.

Proposed law provides different and expanded boundaries of the district. Further requires that the district's boundaries be referenced by original parcel numbers as of the effective date of proposed law.

Present law provides that a seven-member board shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the Opelousas Chamber of Commerce.
- (2) One member appointed by the St. Landry Economic Industrial Development District.
- (3) One member appointed from the banking profession within the district.
- (4) One member appointed from the building/development profession within the district.
- (5) One member appointed from the Opelousas Office of Community Development.
- (6) Two members appointed by the mayor of the city of Opelousas.

Proposed law provides instead that the seven-member board shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of Opelousas from the office of the City of Opelousas Tourism, the Opelousas Historic District, or the Opelousas Mainstreet, Inc.
- (2) One member appointed by the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District who is an active member of the district and resides within the city of Opelousas.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate who represents the area which comprises the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives who represents the area which comprises the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the city council of Opelousas who owns property in the district and has general experience in business management.
- (6) One member appointed from the membership of Vision St. Landry.
- (7) One member appointed by the president for the parish of St. Landry who has experience in the profession of engineering or community planning.

Present law requires that each board member be a citizen of the U.S. and a domiciliary and qualified voter in the city of Opelousas for at least one year preceding the date of appointment.

Proposed law instead requires that each board member be a citizen of the U.S. and a domiciliary of and a qualified voter in the parish of St. Landry. Proposed law additionally prohibits an elected official from serving on the board during his service in elective office.

Present law requires the mayor to fill vacancies on the board within 60 days of written notification. Further requires that such appointments be confirmed by the town council. Present law requires the board to fill vacancies not filled within the specified time period and provides that an interim board member will serve until a successor is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the town council.

Proposed law instead requires the appointing authority to fill vacancies within the time period specified in present law and removes requirement that such appointments be confirmed by the town council. Requires the board to fill vacancies not filled within the specified time period.

Proposed law provides for the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District director or his designee to serve as interim Downtown Development Director until the district is financially able to permanently hire a director. Further, proposed law provides that 8% of the district's annual revenue is to be paid to the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District.

Present law authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to levy and collect a sales and use tax, not exceeding 1%.

Present law authorizes a local government subdivision to establish, by ordinance, an economic development district with the authority to levy ad valorem taxes, up to 2% of sales taxes or up to 2% of hotel occupancy taxes or any combination of such taxes subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the La. constitution and provided that the levy is approved by qualified voters of the district. Authorizes the districts to use or engage in tax incremental financing of projects.

Proposed law authorizes the district's board to establish by resolution such an economic development district or districts within the boundaries of the city of Opelousas. Provides that the board of commissioners shall be the governing authority of such a district and shall have all the powers and authority granted to such economic development districts.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:2740.39(A), (B)(2), and (C)(1), (2), (3), (5), and (6); Adds R.S. 33:9038.32(F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill

1. Changes proposed law boundaries of Opelousas Downtown Development District.
2. Removes proposed law provisions that would have removed requirement of election for district to impose sales tax if there were no electors in district and would have required proceeds of an additional sales tax be used by the district for infrastructure costs, economic development or payment of bonds.
3. Adds provisions authorizing Opelousas Downtown Development District to create economic development districts with TIF authority.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make changes to the district's boundaries.
2. Prohibit an elected official from serving on the district's governing board during his service in elective office.

3. Require that the district's boundaries be referenced by original parcel numbers as of the effective date of proposed law.