
DIGEST

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HB 259 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Zeringue

Abstract: Authorizes the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority and the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District to levy up to a five-mill annual property tax without a vote of the people.

Present constitution authorizes levee districts created prior to Jan. 1, 2006, to levy an annual property tax of up to five mills, except that the Orleans Levee District may only levy up to a two and one-half mill tax.

Present constitution authorizes levee districts created after Jan. 1, 2006, to levy an annual property tax only if approved by a majority of electors of the district. Further, present constitution requires that if the district is comprised of more than one parish, the tax must be approved by a majority of electors in each parish.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution but adds authorization for the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority and the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District to levy an annual property tax of up to five mills without a vote of the people just as those districts created prior to Jan. 1, 2006.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on Oct. 14, 2017.

(Amends Const. Art. VI, §39)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Ways and Means to the original bill:

1. Limit the authority to levy a property tax of up to five mills without a vote of the people to the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District, and the St. Tammany Levee, Drainage, and Conservation District.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete authority for the governing authority of the St. Tammany Levee, Drainage, and

Conservation District to levy the annual tax without voter approval.

2. Update ballot language.