

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 590

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAINES

TOURISM/COMMISSION: Provides relative to the River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors District

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:4574.12(B)(6), (C)(1), and (D)(1)(a), relative to the River
3 Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors District; to provide relative to meetings
4 and powers of the district's governing commission; to provide relative to hotel
5 occupancy taxes levied by the commission; and to provide for related matters.

6 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
7 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
8 Louisiana.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 33:4574.12(B)(6), (C)(1), and (D)(1)(a) are hereby amended and
11 reenacted to read as follows:

12 §4574.12. River Parishes Convention, Tourist, and Visitors District; commission

13 * * *

14 B.

15 * * *

16 (6) The commission shall meet at least once per quarter ~~but not more than~~
17 ~~once per month.~~

18 C.(1) The commission shall have the power to sue and be sued, to accept
19 grants or donations of every type, to spend money on capital improvements if
20 necessary to receive matching federal or state funds, to do all things necessary for

1 the attraction of conventions, tourists, and visitors, including the management and
2 promotion of convention facilities, tourist attractions, film studios and activities,
3 docking facilities, and other points of interest within the three-parish area. Such
4 promotion may include the advertisement and publication of information relating
5 thereto. However, the commission shall not exercise any function which results in
6 direct competition with local retail businesses or enterprises.

7 * * *

8 D.(1)(a) In order to provide funds for the operation of the commission, the
9 commission may levy and collect a hotel/motel occupancy tax within the parishes.
10 The tax shall not exceed ~~two~~ four percent of the rent or fee charged for such
11 occupancy.

12 * * *

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 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))