

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 553

BY REPRESENTATIVES JIMMY HARRIS AND BOUIE

DISTRICTS/ECONOMIC DEVEL: Provides relative to the Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development District in Orleans Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2740.54(B)(1), (2), and (3) and (D)(1), relative to the Lower  
3 Ninth Ward Economic Development District in Orleans Parish; to provide relative  
4 to the governing board of the district; to change the membership of the board and the  
5 qualifications of board members; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the  
6 board; and to provide for related matters.

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

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.54(B)(1), (2), and (3) and (D)(1) are hereby amended and  
12 reenacted to read as follows:

13 §2740.54. Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development District

14 \* \* \*

15 B.(1) The district shall be governed by a ~~nine-member~~ an eleven-member  
16 board of commissioners. The members shall be appointed as follows:

17 (a) ~~One member of the board shall be appointed by the senator representing~~  
18 ~~the second senatorial district.~~

19 (b) ~~One member of the board shall be appointed by the state representative~~  
20 ~~representing the ninety-ninth representative district.~~



1 constructed, or acquired for the district. The board ~~may~~ shall conduct hearings,  
2 publish notice, and disseminate information with respect to the development plan.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. The terms of the members of the board of commissioners of the Lower  
5 Ninth Ward Economic Development District in office on the effective date of this Act  
6 terminate on the effective date of this Act; however, such members shall remain in office  
7 until the board members appointed as provided in this Act take office. The members of the  
8 board of commissioners of the Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development District shall be  
9 appointed and shall take office as provided in this Act and shall serve at the pleasure of the  
10 appointing authority as provided in this Act.

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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)]

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HB 553 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Jimmy Harris

**Abstract:** Relative to the Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development District in Orleans Parish, changes the membership of the governing board and the qualifications of board members.

Present law creates the Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development District in Orleans Parish as a political subdivision of the state to plan and facilitate the revitalization of the residential and commercial areas within the district.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the district is governed by a nine-member board of commissioners appointed as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the senator representing District No. 2.
- (2) One member appointed by the state representative representing District No. 99.
- (3) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of New Orleans.
- (4) One member appointed by the city council member representing Council District E.
- (5) Four members appointed by the Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development Foundation.
- (6) One member appointed by the Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood Council.

Proposed law instead provides that the district is governed by an 11-member board of commissioners appointed as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by the state representative for the House of Representatives district encompassing all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (2) Two members appointed by the state senator for the Senate district encompassing all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (3) Two members appointed by the mayor of the city of New Orleans.
- (4) Two members appointed by the city council member whose district encompasses all or a greater portion of the area of the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the governing board of the Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Association.
- (6) Two members appointed by the Table Connect Group.

Present law requires each board member to be a qualified voter of Orleans Parish and have his principal place of business or profession in, or own property in, the district. Provides that board members serve two year terms and serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Proposed law instead requires each board member to be a resident and qualified voter of Orleans Parish. Provides that board members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Present law requires the board to prepare a development plan or plans, specifying the public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished, constructed, or acquired for the district. Authorizes the board to conduct hearings, publish notices, and disseminate information with respect to the development plan.

Proposed law retains present law except requires rather than authorizes the board to conduct hearings, publish notices, and disseminate information with respect to the development plan.

Proposed law provides that the terms of the board members in office on the effective date of proposed law terminate on that date; however, the members must remain in office until the board members appointed as provided in proposed law take office.

(Amends R.S. 33:2740.54(B)(1), (2), and (3) and (D)(1))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add provisions changing the qualifications of board members.

#### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association as an appointing authority and replaces it with the Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Association.