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DIGEST

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**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

**HB 583**

**2019 Regular Session**

**Dwight**

**Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House**

TAX APPEALS/BOARD: Provides relative to jurisdiction of the Board of Tax Appeals and appeals

**Report adopts Senate amendments to:**

1. Remove the requirement that actions seeking a declaration that a new law is unconstitutional based solely on noncompliance with legislative procedure be brought against the state and its officers in the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC with service upon the attorney general.
2. Prohibit aggrieved parties from petitioning the board to declare a law unconstitutional on the basis of its failure to meet the constitutional requirements for the passage of laws by the legislature.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Remove an improper citation from the ballot language.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

Present law authorizes state courts to provide a legal remedy in cases where taxes are claimed to be an unlawful burden upon interstate commerce or when the collection of taxes violates any Act of Congress, the U.S. Constitution, or the Constitution of La.

Proposed law retains present law and extends this jurisdiction to the Board of Tax Appeals (the board) to handle such cases. Proposed law also authorizes state courts and the board to provide a legal remedy for cases where tax are claimed to be unconstitutional under any provision of the U.S. Constitution or the Constitution of La.

Present law authorizes a court of competent jurisdiction to determine in an action for declaratory judgment the validity or applicability of a rule. Proposed law retains present law and additionally authorizes the board to make such determination.

Present law provides for the jurisdiction of the board over matters of appeals, waiver of penalties, rules, petitions, claims against the state, and incidental demands. Proposed law retains present law and additionally extends the jurisdiction to include petitions for declaratory judgment related to the constitutionality of laws or ordinances, or the validity of a regulation concerning any matter relating to any state or local tax or fee not within the jurisdiction of the La. Tax Commission. Proposed law extends jurisdiction of all matters related to state or local taxes or fees.

Present law includes collectors responsible for collecting local taxes where an action is appealable to the board in the definition of local collector. Proposed law amends the definition to include collectors responsible for collecting local fees and excludes actions appealable to the board and tax matters within the jurisdiction of the La. Tax Commission.

Present law authorizes an aggrieved taxpayer to appeal to the board for matters related to assessments or determinations of alleged overpayment. Proposed law retains present law and additionally authorizes aggrieved parties to petition the board over petitions for declaratory judgment related to the constitutionality of laws or ordinances, or the validity of a regulation.

Proposed law states that no aggrieved party shall petition the board to declare a law unconstitutional on the basis of its failure to meet the constitutional requirements for the passage of laws by the legislature.

Present law grants the courts of appeal the exclusive jurisdiction over the decisions and judgments made by the board. Proposed law retains present law and additionally grants this appellate jurisdiction to the supreme court.

Present law states that the Board of Tax Appeals has no jurisdiction to declare a statute or ordinance unconstitutional. The board must order the case to be transferred to the proper district court venue. The district court will determine the constitutionality and then may order the case to be remanded back to the board. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law authorizes a collector to enforce the collection of taxes through an ordinary suit under provisions of law regulating actions for the enforcement of obligations.

Proposed law provides that such suits shall be before the board or any court of competent jurisdiction.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, if the proposed addition of Article V, §35 of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 428 of this 2019 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 47:337.45(A)(3), 337.63(C), 337.97, 1407(3), 1418(4)(b), 1435(A), (C), and (D), 1561(A)(3), and 1576(D); Adds R.S. 47:1407(6) and 1431(D); Repeals R.S. 47:1432(B))