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## DIGEST

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Michael Jackson

HB No. 468

**Abstract:** Creates the Melrose East Crime Prevention District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security of district residents by providing for an increase in the presence of law enforcement personnel in the district. Creates and provides for the district's board of commissioners. Provides for the imposition and use of a parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the Melrose East Crime Prevention District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security of district residents by providing for an increase in the presence of law enforcement personnel in the district. Provides for district boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners. Requires each board member to be a property owner in the district. Provides that the board shall be composed as follows:

- (1) The president of Melrose East Community Association, Inc.
- (2) One member appointed by the board of directors of Melrose East Community Association, Inc., or its successor.
- (3) One member appointed by the member(s) of the La. House of Representatives who represent the area that comprises the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member(s) of the La. Senate who represent the area that comprises the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the assessor for East Baton Rouge Parish.
- (6) One member appointed by the mayor-president for the city of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish.
- (7) One member appointed by the member(s) of the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish who represent the area that comprises the district.

Proposed law provides that the terms of the members appointed pursuant to (3)-(7) above shall

be concurrent with the respective appointing authority. Provides that the member appointed pursuant to (2) above shall serve a term of four years after an initial term of one year. Requires board members to serve without compensation and provides that they shall not receive reimbursement for expenses.

Proposed law provides that the district, acting through the board, shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
- (3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to proposed law and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by proposed law.
- (4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public, for the provision of security patrols in the district.
- (5) To purchase items and supplies which the board deems instrumental to achieving the purpose of the district.
- (6) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary for the achievement of the purpose of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district. Provides that the amount of the fee shall be as requested by the board. Further provides that the fee shall be a flat fee per improved parcel not to exceed \$200 per parcel per year for lots zoned for residential use and \$2,000 per year for lots zoned for commercial use. Requires that the fee be imposed on each improved parcel located within the district.

Proposed law requires the board of commissioners, at least 30 days prior to any election held to approve imposition of a parcel fee, to mail notification of the upcoming election to each registered voter of the district and to the owner of a parcel if the owner is not a registered voter of the district.

Proposed law requires the initial election on the question of the imposition to be held at the same time as a regularly scheduled election in East Baton Rouge Parish. Provides that the fee shall expire 10 years from its initial levy. Authorizes renewal of such fee.

Proposed law requires that the fee be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes are collected. Further requires the parish to collect and remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection. Authorizes the parish to retain a 1% collection fee.

Proposed law requires the board of commissioners to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law provides that it is the purpose and intent of proposed law that the additional law enforcement personnel and services provided by the district shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services provided in the district by the city of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish. Further provides that if the district ceases to exist, any funds of the district shall be transmitted to the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish and shall be used for law enforcement purposes in the area included within the district.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.5)