
DIGEST

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Tucker

HB No. 779

Abstract: Provides relative to the membership of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans Port and the jurisdiction of the port.

Present law provides relative to the membership of the board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans. Provides for a seven-member board appointed by the governor with four members from Orleans Parish, two from Jefferson Parish, and one from St. Bernard Parish. Provides relative to nominating agencies and the nominating process.

Proposed law provides for a nine-member board with two members from Orleans Parish, two from Jefferson Parish, two from Plaquemines Parish, one from St. Bernard Parish, and the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development and the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development.

Proposed law requires "tier 2" financial disclosure for the members of the board of commissioners – the same disclosure requirements and thresholds as applicable to the legislature.

Present law authorizes the board of commissioners to regulate commerce and traffic in the port and harbor of New Orleans but retains the authority given to St. Bernard Port Harbor and Terminal District to regulate commerce and traffic, including international commerce.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that the board of commissioners for the Port of New Orleans shares jurisdiction with the Plaquemines Parish governing authority and requires the board to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements to develop, acquire, operate, and maintain port-related terminals and facilities and to regulate commerce and traffic at those facilities. Further specifies that nothing should be interpreted to in any way restrict the powers granted to Plaquemines Parish to acquire, develop, operate, and manage port facilities within their jurisdiction and to receive income from the facilities. Further preserves the right of Plaquemines Parish to regulate commerce and traffic on the navigable waterways of that parish.

Proposed law provides that each member of the board of commissioners for the Port of New Orleans in office on June 1, 2008, shall remain in office Dec. 31, 2009. Requires nominations for the board members under the new provisions to be certified to the governor no later than Nov. 15, 2009. Requires the governor to make his appointments no later than Dec. 15, 2009. Provides that the appointments take office January 1, 2010.

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

(Amends R.S. 34:1(A)-(H) and 21(A))