
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 three members from Orleans Parish, two from Jefferson Parish, two from Plaquemines Parish, and two from St. Bernard Parish.

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 Council. 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 the members of the board of commissioners serving June 1, 2009, shall serve the remainder of their terms. Provides that the additional commissioner from St. Bernard Parish will be appointed to Position D when the current term of office ends. Provides that the appointments from Plaquemines Parish shall be made as soon practicable. Provides that the person appointed to Position G shall serve an initial three-year term and the person appointed to Position I shall serve an initial term of five years. After the initial term, both positions shall have five-year terms.

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

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill.

1. Relative to the membership of the board,
 - a. Adds one member from Orleans Parish and one member from St. Bernard Parish.
 - b. Removes from the board the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development and the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development.
 - c. Removes from the Plaquemines Parish nominating committee the parish president and the parish council and adds the Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal Authority.
 - d. Adds to the regional nominating committee the Mississippi River Maritime Association.
2. Provides that the shared jurisdiction is between the board of commissioners and the Plaquemines Parish Council.
3. Removes the requirement for a cooperative endeavor agreement in order for the Port of New Orleans to develop, acquire, operate, and maintain port-related facilities in Plaquemines Parish.
4. Provides that the members of the board of commissioners serving June 1, 2009, shall serve the remainder of the terms. Provides that the additional commissioner from St. Bernard Parish will be appointed to Position D when that term of office ends. Provides that the appointments from Plaquemines Parish shall be made as soon as practicable. Provides that the person appointed to Position G shall serve an initial three-year term and the person appointed to Position I shall serve an initial term of five years. After the initial term, both positions shall have five-year terms.