

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

BY REPRESENTATIVE MONTOUCET

TOURISM/COMMISSION: Provides relative to the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:4574(B)(1), 4574.1.1(A)(1), and 4574.2(G) and to enact R.S.
3 33:4574.2(H) and 4574.17, relative to the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors
4 Bureau; to change the name to the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors
5 Commission; to provide for additional powers of the commission relative to debt,
6 funds, property, and contracting; to authorize the commission to issue bonds and
7 certificates of indebtedness; and to provide for related matters.

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

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 33:4574(B)(1), 4574.1.1(A)(1), and 4574.2(G) are hereby amended
13 and reenacted and R.S. 33:4574.2(H) and 4574.17 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §4574. Tourist commissions; creation; purpose; directors; powers

15 * * *

16 B. Pursuant to Article VI, Sections 19 and 30 of the Constitution of
17 Louisiana, the following commissions and bureaus, hereafter collectively referred
18 to in this Chapter as "tourist commissions" or "commissions", are hereby specifically
19 created as special districts or commissions. Each such commission shall be a body

1 politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana, composed
2 of the following territory:

3 (1) Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors ~~Bureau~~ Commission composed
4 of all the territory in Acadia Parish.

5 * * *

6 §4574.1.1. Occupancy taxes levied by the commissions

7 A. For the purposes set forth in Paragraph (F)(3) of this Section, a
8 commission created pursuant to R.S. 33:4574(B) is authorized to levy and collect a
9 tax upon the occupancy of hotel rooms, motel rooms, and overnight camping
10 facilities within the jurisdiction of the commission. Such tax shall not exceed the
11 following percentages of the rent or fee charged for such occupancy:

12 (1) Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors ~~Bureau~~ Commission, four
13 percent.

14 * * *

15 §4574.2. Budget; borrowing money; audit

16 * * *

17 G.(1) The Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission may purchase
18 land for the construction of a convention center and may borrow money for the
19 purchase of such land and for the construction of the convention center. The
20 commission shall comply with all of the following when borrowing money for these
21 purposes:

22 (a) The commission may only borrow from a licensed financial institution.

23 (b) The loan shall be secured by a first mortgage upon the immovable
24 property of the commission.

25 (c) The sum borrowed shall be less than the market value of the immovable
26 property pledged as security for the loan.

27 (d) The commission anticipates that it will be able to make payments under
28 such loan out of the revenue from taxes authorized by R.S. 33:4574.1.1 during the
29 period in which the loan is to be repaid.

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)]

Montoucet

HB No. 503

Abstract: Changes the name of the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau and allows the redesignated commission to exercise additional powers.

Present law creates parishwide political subdivisions to promote tourism. Present law allows these political subdivisions to collect a hotel occupancy tax to finance their objectives.

Present law creates the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau. Proposed law changes the name to the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission.

Proposed law authorizes the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission to borrow money in order to purchase land and construct a convention center, subject to certain financing restrictions.

Proposed law authorizes the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission to enter into contracts, issue bonds, incur debt, issue certificates of indebtedness, and obtain, use, and alienate property.

(Amends R.S. 33:4574(B)(1), 4574.1.1(A)(1), and 4574.2(G); Adds R.S. 33:4574.2(H) and 4574.17)