

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 borrow only 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.

1 (2) This Subsection shall be construed as supplemental and additional to the
2 provisions of Subsection B of this Section.

3 H. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to commissions in existence
4 prior to the effective date of Act No. 19 of the 1975 Regular Session of the
5 Legislature.

6 * * *

7 §4574.17. Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission; additional powers

8 The Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission shall have the
9 following powers necessary or convenient to effectuate its purposes:

10 (1) To acquire, purchase, lease, and use any property, movable or
11 immovable, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein, subject to the applicable
12 provisions of R.S. 33:4574.2(G).

13 (2) To sell, lease, transfer, or dispose of any property or interest therein
14 owned by it and to sublease any property or interest therein leased by it.

15 (3) To construct, develop, maintain, and operate buildings and other
16 facilities.

17 (4) To enter into contracts or cooperative endeavors for the operation or use
18 of its properties or other purposes.

19 (5) To incur debt, even if those monies cannot be paid out of the revenues
20 anticipated to be collected during the year in which the monies are borrowed, subject
21 to the applicable provisions of R.S. 33:4574.2(G).

22 (6) To pledge all or any part of its revenues, income, receipts, or funds and
23 to pledge or mortgage its properties as collateral or security for any indebtedness.

24 (7) To issue certificates of indebtedness pursuant to R.S. 33:2923.

25 (8) To issue bonds pursuant to Article VI, Section 33 of the Louisiana
26 Constitution and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto.
27 Such bonds may be issued only after authorization by a majority of voters in the
28 district voting at an election called by the parish governing authority for that
29 purpose.

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)