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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

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## DIGEST

Present law authorizes any levee district or levee and drainage district, at the discretion of its boards of commissioners, to employ one or more persons as levee district or levee and drainage district police officers who are responsible for maintaining order and exercising general police power on and off the levees, within the area of the levee district or levee and drainage district, and upon its surrounding waters. Present law further provides that each person designated as a police officer by the president of the levee district or levee and drainage district shall be commissioned as a "peace officer" by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Proposed law provides that levee district and levee and drainage district police are commissioned as "special officers" by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:1379.1.

Present law grants authority to such levee police to exercise the power to arrest within the area of their jurisdiction.

Proposed law authorizes levee district and levee and drainage district police to have the right to exercise the power of arrest as peace officers within this state in order to fulfill their duties.

Present law provides that no person except a commissioner may be commissioned as a levee district or levee and drainage district police officer prior to meeting the minimum requirement of completing and graduating from the six-week program of basic law enforcement training at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College or possession of equivalent training and experience.

Proposed law provides that no person may be commissioned as a levee district or levee and drainage district police officer unless he is P.O.S.T. certified or possesses equivalent training and experience.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 38:326(A) and (C))