
DIGEST

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Barrow

HB No. 683

Abstract: Creates the Park Forest East Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law creates the Park Forest East Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the enhancement of security within the district and for the beautification and improvement of the district. Further provides the boundaries of the district.

Proposed law provides for the governance of the district by a seven member board, appointed by: the Park Forest East Civic Association; the member or members of the House of Representatives who represent the area; the member or members of the Senate who represent the area; the Metro Council; and the mayor-president of Baton Rouge. Further provides that members shall serve without compensation and must be registered voters within the district.

Proposed law provides for the board to establish bylaws for its own governance and to provide for the selection of a president and other such officers as the board feels necessary. Further provides that a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of board business.

Proposed law provides terms for the members of the board. Members appointed by the civic association shall serve four-year terms; members appointed by other city and state officials shall serve three-year terms.

Proposed law establishes the powers of the district which include:

- (1) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to proposed law in accordance with a budget adopted pursuant to proposed law.
- (2) To enter into contracts.
- (3) To purchase items and supplies necessary for achieving any purpose of the district.
- (4) To accept private grants and donations.
- (5) To purchase and maintain liability insurance for board members for actions taken in the course of their duties on the board.

- (6) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary to achieve the purposes of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish to collect a parcel fee within the district. Further provides that the amount of the fee shall be as provided by duly adopted resolution of the board, that the fee shall not exceed \$250, and shall only be imposed on lots containing single-family dwellings. Proposed law further provides that the fee cannot be imposed until approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the proposition at an election held in accordance with the La. Election Code.

Proposed law provides that the fee shall remain in effect for 10 years, but may be renewed in the same manner as its imposition. Further provides that the fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes, and that any unpaid parcel fees shall be added to the tax rolls of the parish and enforced with the same authority and the same penalties as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

Proposed law provides that the district shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law and shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor's office.

Proposed law provides that the intent of proposed law is to enhance the law enforcement personnel and services provided by the city and not to be in lieu of such services. Further provides that if the district ceases to exist all of its funds shall be transmitted to the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge and shall be used to enhance security and beautification in the area formerly comprising the district. Further provides that upon dissolution of the district, the authority to levy the parcel fee provided for in proposed law shall cease.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.8)