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## DIGEST

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HB No. 323

**Abstract:** Creates the Eastover Neighborhood Improvement and Security District in Orleans Parish for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and overall betterment of the district. Provides for a board of commissioners and for the imposition and use of a parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the Eastover Neighborhood Improvement and Security District in Orleans Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and overall betterment of the district. Provides that the district shall be governed by the members of the Eastover Property Owner's Association's board of directors. Provides for district boundaries and excludes certain property from the district.

Proposed law provides that the district has the following powers and duties:

- (1) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to proposed law and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by proposed law.
- (2) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public, for the provision of security patrols.
- (3) To purchase items and supplies instrumental to achieving the district's purpose.
- (4) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary for achieving the district's purpose.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of the city of New Orleans, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district which amount shall be as requested by duly adopted board resolution. Provides that the fee shall be a flat fee per parcel of land and the initial fee shall be \$1,652 per year. Provides that the amount of the fee may be increased or decreased, subject to voter approval. Provides for a reduced combined parcel fee if multiple adjacent parcels are combined for the purpose of housing a single family dwelling. Provides relative to calculating the combined parcel fee. Defines a parcel as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a condominium parcel as defined in present law (R.S. 9:1121.103).

Proposed law provides that the fee shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the city tax rolls and enforced with the

same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Proposed law requires that the fee proceeds be used solely and exclusively for the district's purpose and benefit. Authorizes the city to retain 1% of the amount collected as a collection fee and requires the city to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection.

Proposed law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law provides that it is the purpose and intent of proposed law that the additional law enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized by proposed law shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services provided in the district by the New Orleans Police Dept.

Proposed law requires the district's board, if the district ceases to exist, to transmit all district funds to the city. Requires that such funds together with any other funds collected by the city pursuant to proposed law be maintained in a separate account by the city. Requires that such funds be used only to promote, encourage, and enhance the security, beautification, and overall betterment of the area included in the district.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9091.21)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill.

1. Makes changes to the district's boundaries and excludes certain property from the district.
2. Adds provision for a reduced combined parcel fee if multiple adjacent parcels are combined for the purpose of housing a single family dwelling.