
DIGEST

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Tim Burns

HB No. 252

Abstract: Allows certain persons affiliated with the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation to serve on the board of commissioners of the St. Tammany Parish Development District and to participate and vote on certain matters involving the district and the foundation.

Present law creates the St. Tammany Parish Development District and its board of commissioners. Provides that the board of commissioners consists of 13 persons, including four members appointed by the St. Tammany Parish president, four members appointed by the St. Tammany Parish council, three members appointed by the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation, the St. Tammany Parish president or his designee, and the executive director of the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation.

Present law specifically authorizes the district acting by and through the board of commissioners to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the St. Tammany Parish Economic Development Foundation to achieve any of the lawful purposes of the district.

Present law (ethics code—R.S. 42:1111) prohibits a public servant from receiving compensation from certain sources, including those which have or are seeking a contractual or business or financial relationship with the public servant's agency. Present law (R.S. 42:1111 & 1113) prohibits a public servant and specified related legal entities from receiving any thing of economic value for assisting persons in transactions with the public servant's agency or from engaging in transactions with the public servant's agency. Present law (R.S. 42:1112) prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving his governmental entity when the public servant or a person in which he is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee has a substantial economic interest. Present law (R.S. 42:1120.4) further requires an appointed member of a board or commission to recuse himself from voting on certain specified matters that would violate present law (R.S. 42:1112) and further prohibits such an appointed member of a board or commission from participating in discussion and debate concerning the matter.

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding the provisions of present law (ethics code—R.S. 42:1111, 1112, 1113, and 1120.4), a member of the board of commissioners who is the executive director of or who is an officer, director, trustee, or employee of the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation may serve on the board of commissioners of the St. Tammany Parish Development District and may participate and vote on matters involving the district and the foundation as authorized by present law relative to cooperative endeavors between the district and the foundation.

Present law prohibits elected officials from serving on the board of commissioners. Proposed law clarifies that other than the St. Tammany Parish president, elected officials are prohibited from serving on the board.

Provides that the provisions are to be applied retroactively as well as prospectively.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:130.402(D) and 130.409(A); Adds R.S. 33:130.402(H))