



Present law authorizes entities defined as "local governmental subdivisions" to implement ad valorem tax and sales tax increment financing and to issue revenue bonds backed by a pledge of the tax increments to finance all or any part of an "economic development project".

Present law authorizes such "local governmental subdivisions" to enter into a joint venture or cooperative endeavor for a public purpose with a federal, state, or local governmental agency or with a private or public firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity.

Present law authorizes such "local governmental subdivisions" to issue revenue bonds and other bonds and forms of indebtedness.

Present law authorizes such "local governmental subdivisions" to levy an ad valorem tax of up to 5 mills and two percent of sales tax after the governing authority of the district gives notice and meets in open and public session to hear any objections and the favorable vote of a majority of the electors of the district voting in an election.

Such tax increase may be levied only after the governing authority of the district has called a special election submitting the proposition for the levy of such taxes to the qualified electors of the district and the proposition has received the favorable vote of a majority of the electors voting in the election; however, in the event there are no qualified electors in the district as certified by the registrar of voters, no such election shall be required.

Proposed law defines the Walnut Street Special District as an "issuer" and a "local governmental subdivision for purposes of utilizing such TIF authority in present law."

Proposed law specifically grants to the district all the ad valorem, sales tax, and occupancy tax increment finance and bonding authority, and the ad valorem and sales tax levy authority granted to "local governmental subdivisions" as described above, and deems the project to fund infrastructure within the district to be an "economic development project" within the meaning of the TIF laws.

The district may also pledge any taxes collected under the authority of this Section to any economic development project in furtherance of the purposes of the district. Such financing may include but shall not be limited to loans, mortgages, the issuance of bonds, or the issuance of certificates of indebtedness.

The district must dissolve and cease to exist one year after the date all indebtedness of the district is paid in full as to both principal and interest; however, under no event can the district have an existence of less than three years.

Proposed law must be liberally construed to effect its purposes.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:9038.31(2) and (3); adds R.S. 33:9038.68)