

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 124

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOURRIAQUE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PROPERTY/PUBLIC: Authorizes the sale or exchange of sixteenth section state lands by the Cameron Parish School Board

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 41:729, relative to sixteenth section lands; to provide for the sale or exchange
3 of certain state property in Cameron Parish; to provide for the authority of the
4 Cameron Parish School Board; to provide for appraisal; to provide for notice and
5 public hearings; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 41:729 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §729. Cameron Parish School Board; sale or exchange of sixteenth section lands

9 A. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if the Cameron Parish
10 School Board, on behalf of the state of Louisiana, determines that any sixteenth
11 section lands located within Cameron Parish are no longer needed for school
12 purposes and that the best interest of the Cameron Parish school system would be
13 served by the sale or exchange of such lands, the school board may authorize a sale
14 or exchange on behalf of the state in accordance with the procedures set forth in this
15 Section.

16 B. The school board shall obtain an appraisal of the lands being considered
17 for sale or exchange from a certified, licensed appraiser and such appraisal shall be
18 available for public inspection.

19 C. The school board shall hold a public hearing to receive public comment
20 concerning the sale or exchange of the sixteenth section lands. The school board

1 shall provide notice of the public hearing and notice of its intent to consider the sale
2 or exchange of sixteenth section lands by advertisement in the official journal of the
3 parish on at least three separate days at least thirty days prior to the date of the
4 hearing. The notice shall include a brief description of the sixteenth section lands
5 to be sold or exchanged, as well as any lands being considered in exchange for such
6 sixteenth section lands. The appraisal required by Subsection B of this Section shall
7 be made available for public inspection at the hearing.

8 D. After the hearing and with due consideration of any public comments, if
9 the board determines that the sixteenth section lands are not needed for school
10 purposes and that a sale or exchange is in the best interest of the school system, the
11 school board may vote to authorize a sale or exchange.

12 E. Upon authorization of the school board for the sale of sixteenth section
13 lands, the president of the school board may proceed with a sale on behalf of the
14 state in accordance with the procedures provided in R.S. 41:892. Upon authorization
15 of the school board for an exchange of sixteenth section lands, the president of the
16 school board may proceed on behalf of the state with an exchange of such lands for
17 other lands in Cameron Parish of equal or greater value.

18 F. The authority conferred by this Section shall be in addition to the
19 authority conferred by any other law. This Section shall be construed liberally for
20 the accomplishment of its purpose, which is to provide a complete and additional
21 method for the sale or exchange of unused sixteenth section lands by the Cameron
22 Parish School Board.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 124 Original

2023 Regular Session

Bourriaque

Abstract: Authorizes the Cameron Parish School Board to sell or exchange 16th section lands in Cameron Parish on behalf of the state.

Present law provides that the title to 16th section lands is held by the state.

Present law authorizes school boards to sell or lease unused 16th section state lands after an election held in the township where the 16th section is located.

Present law also authorizes school boards to sell other unused immovable property through a public bid process.

Proposed law further authorizes the Cameron Parish School Board to approve the sale or exchange of 16th section lands in Cameron Parish, using the public bid process under present law for a sale, or through an exchange where the property received is of equal or greater value than the 16th section lands.

Proposed law requires that an appraisal be obtained and a public hearing be held prior to the school board determining whether the lands should be sold or exchanged.

Proposed law provides that the school board president would be the authorized signatory for any sale or exchange of 16th section state lands approved by the board.

(Adds R.S. 41:729)