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## DIGEST

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HB 185 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Newell

**Abstract:** Creates the Castle Manor Improvement District in New Orleans.

Proposed law creates the Castle Manor Improvement District in New Orleans for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification and security of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Castle Manor Improvement Assoc.
- (2) The governing board of the association shall appoint two members.
- (3) Each of the following shall appoint one member from nominees submitted by the association:
  - (a) The mayor of New Orleans.
  - (b) The member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
  - (c) The member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
  - (d) The member of the governing authority of New Orleans whose council district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

Proposed law requires that all members of the board be residents and qualified voters of the district.

Proposed law provides for the powers and duties of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of New Orleans, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district. Provides that the amount of the parcel fee shall not exceed the following:

- (1) For parcels zoned residential, \$100 per parcel per year for the first three years that the fee is collected and \$125 per parcel per year for the next two years of collection.
- (2) For parcels zoned commercial, \$200 per parcel per year for the first three years that the fee

is collected and \$225 per parcel per year for the next two years of collection.

Present constitution provides that property assessments shall not increase for certain property owners who meet specified age, disability, and income requirements. Proposed law provides that the parcel fee shall not be imposed on parcels whose owners qualify for this special assessment level.

Proposed law provides that the initial term for the imposition of the parcel fee is five years but authorizes renewal, subject to voter approval, for terms not to exceed five years.

Proposed law requires that the fee be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes. Authorizes the city to retain 1% of the amount collected.

Proposed law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law (R.S. 39:1301 et seq.) 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 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 state or the city. Further provides that if the district ceases to exist, funds of the district shall be transmitted to the city of New Orleans, and such funds, together with other funds collected by the city pursuant to proposed law, shall be maintained in a separate account and shall be used only to promote, encourage, and enhance the security of the area included in the district.

(Adds R.S. 33:9091.28)