
DIGEST

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SB 165 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Miller

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.11) provides that the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District is hereby established as a political subdivision of the state, with a territorial jurisdiction throughout the 23rd, 29th, and 40th Judicial Districts, including the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist.

Proposed law retains present law and includes Lafourche Parish in the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District.

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.12) provides that the commission shall be composed of a board of 14 commissioners.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall be composed as follows:

- (1) Five commissioners shall be jointly appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriffs of the 23rd Judicial District.
- (2) Two commissioners shall be appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriff of St. Charles Parish.
- (3) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. John the Baptist Parish.
- (4) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 23rd JDC.
- (5) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 29th JDC.
- (6) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 40th JDC.
- (7) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 23rd JDC.
- (8) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 29th JDC.
- (9) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 40th JDC.

Proposed law changes present law composition of the board of commissioners as follows:

- (1) Three commissioners shall be jointly appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriffs of the 23rd JDC.
- (2) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish.
- (3) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. Charles Parish.

- (4) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. John the Baptist Parish.
- (5) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 17th JDC.
- (6) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 23rd JDC.
- (7) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 29th JDC.
- (8) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 40th JDC.
- (9) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 17th JDC.
- (10) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 23rd JDC.
- (11) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 29th JDC.
- (12) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 40th JDC.

Present law provides that all commissioner appointments shall be confirmed by the Senate.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that one of the commissioners appointed by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish or the district attorney or chief judge of the 17th JDC shall be a member from the Lafourche Parish Juvenile Justice Commission.

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.15) provides for the authority of the board.

Proposed law amends present law to remove provisions relative to the board's authority to enter into contracts for the management, administration, and operation of certain facilities.

Proposed law further provides that all employees shall be employed directly by the commission.

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.15(B)) provides for the authority of the board to approve certain contracts of employment for a superintendent or administrator and other necessary personnel for certain services.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that the superintendent or administrator shall be employed directly by the commission.

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.16) provides that the board of commissioners shall be domiciled in the parish of St. James.

Proposed law changes present law to provide that the board of commissioners shall be domiciled in Lafourche Parish.

Present law further provides that the board generally may perform any function and exercise any power necessary, requisite, or proper for the administration and management of the affairs of the commission and, specifically, may cooperate with juvenile courts and other courts and public agencies within the 23rd, 29th, and 40th judicial districts to aid and assist in all ways authorized by law for the purposes and responsibilities for which the commission is established.

Proposed law retains present law and adds juvenile courts and other courts and public agencies within the 17th JDC as entities that may aid and assist the district in all ways authorized by law for the purposes and responsibilities for which the commission is established.

Proposed law provides that in Lafourche Parish, the board shall be required to fund the purposes of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District from existing ad valorem taxes levied and collected in Lafourche Parish as of June 1, 2025.

Proposed law further prohibits the board from levying any additional ad valorem taxes in order to fund the purpose of the commission and administer the general authority of the board pursuant to present law.

Proposed law provides that any and all elections held by the district pursuant to present law shall be held on a date that corresponds with a gubernatorial or congressional primary election as provided in present law (R.S. 18:402).

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.17) provides that in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, in all felony and misdemeanor prosecutions, including traffic offenses, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, in any district, parish, city, or mayor's court, special costs in an amount not to exceed five dollars, shall be levied against every defendant who is convicted after trial, enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or forfeits bond.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that any district, parish, city, or mayor's court in Lafourche Parish to the parishes that may levee a fine not to exceed five dollars to every defendant who is convicted after trial, enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or forfeits bond

Present law provides that in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, in all courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction, special costs in an amount not to exceed five dollars shall be levied against every juvenile who is found to have committed a traffic violation, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, and special costs in an amount not to exceed \$25 shall be levied against every juvenile who is adjudicated a delinquent.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that all courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction in Lafourche Parish to the parishes that may levee against every juvenile who is found to have committed a traffic violation, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, and special costs in an amount not to exceed \$25 against every juvenile who is adjudicated a delinquent.

Proposed law shall become effective when a majority of the qualified electors in Lafourche Parish vote in favor of a proposition to authorize Lafourche Parish to rededicate any ad valorem tax millage levied and collected as of June 1, 2025, to fund the purpose of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission in an election held for such purpose on a date that corresponds with a gubernatorial or congressional primary election as provided in present law (R.S. 18:402).

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

(Amends R.S. 15:1109.11, 1109.12(A), 1109.13, 1109.15, 1109.16(A), and 1109.17; Adds R.S. 15:1109.16(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that one of the commissioners appointed by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish or the district attorney or chief judge of the 17th Judicial District shall be a member from the Lafourche Parish Juvenile Justice Commission.
3. Remove provisions of present law relative to the board's ability to enter into contracts for the management, administration, and operation of certain facilities.
4. Relative to the authority of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Board of Commissioners, provide that all employees shall be employed directly by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.
5. Relative to authorization of contracts of employment for a superintendent or administrator for certain services, provide that the superintendent or administrator shall be employed directly by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.
6. Clarify how the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District is to fund its purposes in Lafourche Parish through existing ad valorem taxes.
7. Provide that any and all elections held by the district pursuant to present law (R.S. 15:1109.16) shall be held on a date that corresponds with a gubernatorial or congressional primary election as provided in present law (R.S. 18:402).
8. Provide for effective dates as follows:
 - (a) Upon a majority vote of Lafourche Parish to authorize a rededication of any ad valorem tax millage levied and collected as of June 1, 2025, to fund the purpose of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.
 - (b) Upon signature of the governor.