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## DIGEST

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HB 611 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Hilferty

**Abstract:** Provides for the powers and duties of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Present law provides that the public water system, the public sewerage system, and the public drainage system of the city of New Orleans shall be constructed, controlled, maintained, and operated by a sewerage and water board. Provides for the composition of the board and the qualifications of board members.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law creates and provides for a selection committee for the purpose of submitting nominations to the mayor for board appointments. Provides for the composition of the selection committee.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the mayor is ex officio president of the board. Proposed law instead requires the board to elect a president for a term of one year.

Present law provides that the city attorney shall be the legal advisor of the board. Requires the city attorney to appoint, with the advice and consent of the board, a special counsel who shall have charge of and conduct the legal business of the board.

Proposed law removes present law and instead authorizes the board to employ the services of an attorney and to fix his fees or salary.

Present law provides that the agent for service of process of any legal papers served on the board shall be the executive director of the board or the special counsel appointed by the city attorney.

Proposed law removes the special counsel and provides that the board's legal counsel may also serve as the agent for service of process.

Present law provides that when expropriation is necessary, the city attorney or the special counsel, on the request of the board, shall institute the expropriation proceedings in the name of the city of New Orleans.

Proposed law provides instead that the legal counsel shall institute expropriation procedures.

Present law provides that the mayor or the chief administrative officer and the executive director shall present each quarterly report to the city council at a designated meeting.

Proposed law removes the mayor and the chief administrative officer and instead requires the executive director to present the report.

Present law provides that the city of New Orleans is relieved of its obligation to make annual appropriations for the purpose of maintaining and operating its drainage system of the city of New Orleans and is not required to provide funds for maintaining and operating the drainage system.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires that all contracts executed by the board for the construction or repair of the public systems of sewerage, water and drainage contain a clause stipulating that the contractor shall give preference in employment to bona fide residents of the city of New Orleans, both skilled and unskilled. Prohibits the employment of any non-resident laborers, skilled or unskilled (except confidential clerks, chief superintendents and chief engineers).

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law authorizes the board to apportion its funds among the water, sewerage, and drainage systems by a vote of not less than ten members of the board, exclusive of the mayor. Requires that such apportionment be approved by the mayor in writing. Provides that in case the members and the mayor cannot agree on any apportionment, the matter must be referred to the city council, which may make the apportionment. Provides that present law is not applicable in cases of emergency.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective January 12, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 33:4073, 4077, 4077.1, 4078, 4091(D), and 4136; Repeals R.S. 33:4087, 4088, and 4146)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Remove proposed law provisions that change the membership of the board and the qualifications of board members.
2. Remove proposed law provisions that remove the board's selection committee.
3. Remove proposed law provisions that make changes to the requirements for the filling of board vacancies.

4. Remove proposed law provisions that remove the mayor's ability to designate a person to attend a board meeting in his place if he is unable to attend.