

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SB 165

2025 Regular Session

Miller

June 12, 2025

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 165 by Senator Miller, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That House Committee Amendments No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 proposed by the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 2, 2025, be adopted.
2. That House Committee Amendments No. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 proposed by the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 2, 2025, be rejected.
3. That the House Floor Amendment proposed by the Representative Bacala and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 8, 2025, be adopted.
4. That the following amendment to the engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

"C. When the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District presents any tax proposal to the electors of the district, the Lafourche Parish Council shall submit to the electors of Lafourche Parish a reduction of any current levied millage at or lower than the tax increase proposed by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District on the same election date."

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

Senator Gregory A. Miller

Representative Tony Bacala

Senator Robert Allain

Representative Debbie Villio

Senator Mike Reese

Representative Jeffery "Jeff" Wiley

The legislative instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

JUVENILES. Provides for the governance of the Juvenile Justice District and adds Lafourche Parish to the Juvenile Justice District. (8/1/25)

Report adopts House amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove provisions of present law relative to the board's ability to enter into contracts for the management, administration, and operation of certain facilities.
3. Add provision requiring that all employees of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Board of Commissioners be employed directly by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.
4. Add provision requiring that the superintendent or administrator be employed directly by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.

Report rejects House amendments which would have:

1. Provided that one of the commissioners appointed by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish, the district attorney, or chief judge of the 17th Judicial District shall be a member from the Lafourche Parish Juvenile Justice Commission.
2. Clarified that the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District would have funded its purposes in Lafourche Parish through existing ad valorem taxes under certain terms and conditions.
3. Required that any and all elections held by the district be held on a date that corresponded with a gubernatorial or congressional primary election.
4. Provided 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.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Add provision requiring that when the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District presents any tax proposal to the electors of the district, the Lafourche Parish Council submit to the electors of Lafourche Parish a reduction of any current levied millage at or lower than the tax increase proposed by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District on the same election date.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

SB 165 Engrossed

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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 removes present law 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 JDCs 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 requires that when the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District presents any tax proposal to the electors of the district, the Lafourche Parish Council submit to the electors

of Lafourche Parish a reduction of any current levied millage at or lower than the tax increase proposed by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District on the same election date.

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 adds that any district, parish, city, or mayor's court in Lafourche Parish may levy 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 adds that all courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction in Lafourche Parish may levy 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.

Effective on August 1, 2025.

(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))