

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

SB 89

2025 Regular Session

Bouie

Present law provides that all members of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans will be made by the governor without confirmation by the Senate. Provides the requirements for removal of a member by public hearing and the process by which a commission is formed of three disinterested citizens residing within the jurisdictional area of this port. Provides for how the commission is selected with one member appointed by the governor, one member appointed by the president of Tulane University, and one member appointed by the president of Loyola University in New Orleans. Provides that any member removed has the right to test in the courts the sufficiency of the charges and the evidence in support of the charges.

Proposed law would have provided that an appointment to the board is subject to Senate confirmation.

Proposed law would have otherwise retained present law.

Proposed law would have only applied to persons appointed to the board on or after August 1, 2025.

(Proposed to Amend R.S. 34:2)

### **VETO MESSAGE:**

"I am writing to inform you that I have vetoed Senate Bill 89 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session. This bill proposes subjecting port members to senate confirmation, which would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to an already rigorous appointment process.

The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans is composed of seven members, selected based on the location of their principal place of business: four from Orleans Parish, two from Jefferson Parish, and one from St. Bernard Parish. Each parish has a designated nominating organization to ensure broad representation. These nominating organization are:

**Orleans Parish Nominating Organization:** New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Board of Trade, Ltd., New Orleans Steamship Association, International Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans, Inc., Maritime Trade's Council of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity, Metropolitan Area Committee, Louisiana Farm Bureau, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Dillard University, Xavier University, World Trade Center, Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association, Propeller Club of the United State, and the Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO.

**Jefferson Parish Nominating Organization:** Harvey Canal Industrial Association; East Bank Council of the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; West Bank Council of the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; Maritime Trade's Council of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity; Louisiana Farm Bureau; Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO and the Jefferson Business Council.

**St. Bernard Parish Nominating Organization:** St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce; St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District; Maritime Trade's Council of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity; and Louisiana Farm Bureau.

Each nominating organization has a nominating council that consists of the presidents or recognized heads of the nominating agencies of that nominating organization. When a vacancy arises on the board, each agency within the organization is statutorily required to submit the names of qualified individuals with experience in port commerce or industry. These submissions must be made in a statutorily predetermined order, and at five-day intervals. After the nominating organizations have submitted their names the nominating council convenes to review the full slate of candidates. The nominating council must then certify three nominees to the governor from the candidates submitted by the nominating agencies. From this limited group of three, the governor selects his appointment.

This process ensures appointments are locally driven, carefully vetted, and rooted in industry expertise and community representation. Adding a Senate confirmation requirement would complicate a system that already includes substantial input, oversight, and structure. If the author wishes to propose changes to this nominating process in the future, I would be happy to collaborate on incorporating the Senate confirmation.

For this reason, I have determined that Senate Bill 89 is unnecessary and will not become law."