

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 871

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARVER

PORTS/NEW ORLEANS: Provides relative to the membership the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 34:1(A)(1) and (2), (C), (E)(4), (G), (H), 3, and 26 and to enact
3 R.S. 34:1(B)(4), (E)(5), and (F)(4), relative to the membership of the board of
4 commissioners of the Port of New Orleans; to increase the membership of the board;
5 to provide for the method of appointment and the sequence of filling vacancies; to
6 establish the nominating organization for St. Tammany Parish; to provide for the
7 nominating agencies; to provide for quorum, officers, and meetings of the board; to
8 provide for the appointment and oversight of port and harbor police; and to provide
9 for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 34:1(A)(1) and (2), (C), (E)(4), (G), (H), 3, and 26 are hereby
12 amended and reenacted and R.S. 34:1(B)(4), (E)(5), and (F)(4) are hereby enacted to read
13 as follows:

14 §1. Continuation; qualifications; appointments; terms; vacancies

15 A. Membership; qualifications; vacancies.

16 (1) The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, hereinafter
17 referred to as "the board" is continued. The number of members comprising the
18 board shall be ~~seven~~ nine, who shall be qualified voters, four of whom shall each
19 have his principal place of business in the parish of Orleans, two of whom shall each
20 have his principal place of business in the parish of Jefferson, ~~and~~ one of whom shall

1 have his principal place of business in the parish of St. Bernard, and two of whom
 2 shall have his principal place of business in the parish of St. Tammany. The four
 3 members from the parish of Orleans shall fill the positions on the board to be
 4 designated as Positions D, E, F, and G; the two members from the parish of Jefferson
 5 shall fill the positions on the board to be designated as Positions A and C; ~~and~~ the
 6 member from the parish of St. Bernard shall fill the position on the board to be
 7 designated as Position B; and the two members from the parish of St. Tammany shall
 8 fill the positions on the board to be designated as H and I or as required by Paragraph
 9 (2) of this Subsection.

10 (2) On or after October 1, 1976, vacancies occurring because of expiration
 11 of term and the two additional memberships created by this Act* shall be filled in
 12 such manner that the first such vacancy occurring shall be filled by a member who
 13 shall hold Position A, and each such subsequent vacancy shall be filled in sequence
 14 by members holding Positions B, C, D, E, F, ~~and~~ G, H, and I, respectively. Any
 15 vacancy occurring prior to October 1, 1976, shall be filled in the same manner in
 16 which the position was initially filled.

17 * * *

18 B. Nominating agencies.

19 * * *

20 (4) For the purpose of selecting nominees for the two members, each of
 21 whom shall be appointed by the governor from the nominees selected by the St.
 22 Tammany Parish nominating organization, the following agencies shall constitute
 23 and shall be designated as the St. Tammany Parish nominating organization:

24 (a) St. Tammany Economic Development Corporation.

25 (b) Northshore Business Council.

26 (c) St. Tammany Parish Chamber of Commerce.

27 (d) Louisiana Farm Bureau.

28 (e) Port Maritime Council of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity.

1 meeting convened on the written call of any member thereof, shall certify to the
 2 governor for such vacancy then existing the names of three nominees from among
 3 the nominees whose names have been submitted to it by the nominating agencies of
 4 the St. Tammany Parish nominating organization, and from among the nominees
 5 thus certified the governor shall make an appointment or appointments to fill such
 6 vacancy.

7 G. Nominating agencies; identity. The nominating agencies listed in
 8 Subsections (B)(1), (2), ~~and (3), and (4)~~ of this Section shall be understood and
 9 construed to be the agencies presently existing and designated by the names listed
 10 in Subsections (B)(1), (2), ~~and (3), and (4)~~ or their respective legal successors.

11 H. Dissolution of nominating agencies; effect. If any of the nominating
 12 agencies listed in Subsections (B)(1), (2), ~~and (3), and (4)~~ of this Section ceases to
 13 exist or to function, without any legal successor, the nominees to be submitted to the
 14 appropriate nominating council as provided in Subsection E of this Section, shall be
 15 submitted by the nominating agencies of the appropriate nominating organization
 16 that continue to exist and function.

17 * * *

18 §3. Officers of board; meetings

19 The board of commissioners shall elect from its membership, a chairman, a
 20 vice chairman and a secretary-treasurer, whose duties shall be those usual to such
 21 officers. The board shall meet once a month in regular session. They shall meet in
 22 special sessions as often as the chairman of the board convenes them, or on written
 23 request of four members. ~~Four~~ Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum
 24 for the transaction of business. The board shall prescribe rules to govern its
 25 meetings, and shall keep suitable offices convenient to the business center of the city
 26 of New Orleans.

27 * * *

28 §26. Port and harbor police

1 The board of commissioners may, in its discretion, appoint, fix salaries of,
 2 and pay port and harbor police; said police to consist of such number of men of good
 3 character and citizens of the state, not under 21 years of age. Each of the port and
 4 harbor police so appointed shall furnish bond in a sum to be fixed by the board of
 5 commissioners at not less than one thousand dollars, conditioned on the faithful
 6 performance of his duties, and any person injured or damaged by any port or harbor
 7 police may sue upon said bond. The port and harbor police shall have, under the
 8 direction and control of the board of commissioners, the same power to make arrests,
 9 in and upon the property within the jurisdiction of the board and approaches thereto,
 10 and to execute and return all criminal warrants and processes, as sheriffs of this state
 11 have, and shall under the same direction and authority, have all the powers of sheriffs
 12 as peace officers in all places and on all premises under the jurisdiction and control
 13 of the board, and the streets and approaches thereto. Any persons arrested by
 14 officers of the board and the return of all warrants or processes served by said
 15 officers shall be forthwith surrendered or delivered to the criminal sheriff of the
 16 Parish of Orleans or sheriffs of St. Bernard, ~~and Jefferson,~~ and St. Tammany
 17 parishes; provided this shall in no way deprive the New Orleans city police or any
 18 sheriff or deputy sheriff in the parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard, ~~or Jefferson,~~ or St.
 19 Tammany from making arrests or from serving warrants or process of court in any
 20 such place or on any such premises. The board of commissioners shall make rules
 21 and regulations for the conduct, management and control of the port and harbor
 22 police, and shall, from time to time, enlarge, modify or change such rules and
 23 regulations in its discretion.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 871 Original

2026 Regular Session

Carver

Abstract: Increases the membership of the board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans by adding two board members from St. Tammany Parish and updates provisions of state law regarding board operations and law enforcement under its

authority. Establishes the St. Tammany Parish nominating organization and its member agencies and provides for the sequence and certification of nominees to the governor.

Present law provides for a seven-members board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, with members required to be qualified voters and to have their principal place of business in specified parishes, namely four members in Orleans Parish, two in Jefferson Parish, and one in St. Bernard Parish, and assigns specific board positions (A–G) based on parish representation.

Proposed law modifies present law by increasing the number of board members from seven to nine with the addition of two members from St. Tammany Parish and two additional positions, H and I.

Present law requires that vacancies occurring on or after Oct. 1, 1976, due to term expiration or the creation of additional memberships be filled sequentially by board positions A through G, and that any vacancy occurring prior to Oct. 1, 1976 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law modifies present law by including Positions H and I in the sequence for filling vacancies.

Present law provides for the nominating agencies in the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard.

Proposed law retains present law and establishes a St. Tammany Parish nominating organization to select nominees for the two board members who will be appointed by the governor. The nominating agencies are as follows:

- (1) St. Tammany Economic Development Corporation.
- (2) Northshore Business Council.
- (3) St. Tammany Parish Chamber of Commerce.
- (4) Louisiana Farm Bureau.
- (5) Port Maritime Council of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity.

Present law requires each nominating organization to have a nominating council composed of the presidents or recognized heads of its member agencies, which selects nominees for the governor's appointment to the board from among those submitted by the nominating agencies.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the St. Tammany nominating organization is included among the nominating organizations.

Present law provides for the process in which nominees are submitted by the nominating organizations and the certification of the governor.

Proposed law retains present law and extends this process to Positions H and I, establishing the sequence and timing for submission of nominees by the St. Tammany Parish nominating organization and the certification of three nominees to the governor for appointment.

Present law provides that the nominating agencies listed in present law are the agencies currently existing under those names or their legal successors.

Proposed law modifies present law to include references to the St. Tammany Parish nominating organization and its agencies.

Present law provides that if any of the nominating agencies listed in present law ceases to exist or function without a legal successor, the remaining agencies of the nominating

organization that continue to exist shall submit nominees to the appropriate nominating council.

Proposed law modifies present law to include the St. Tammany Parish nominating organization in the event a nominating agency ceases to exist or function.

Present law requires the board of commissioner to elect a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary-treasurer and hold regular monthly meetings and special sessions as called. Further requires four members to constitute a quorum; and authorizes the board to adopt meeting rules and maintain offices in New Orleans.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the quorum from four to five.

Present law authorizes the board of commissioners to appoint and pay port and harbor police who meet the required qualifications and oversee their duties and authority within the board's jurisdiction, with arrests and warrants to be coordinated with the criminal sheriff of the Parish of Orleans or sheriffs of St. Bernard and Jefferson, and without limiting the New Orleans city police or any sheriff or deputy in Orleans, St. Bernard, or Jefferson parishes from performing their law enforcement duties.

Proposed law modifies present law to include St. Tammany Parish in the coordination of port and harbor police duties and law enforcement authority.

(Amends R.S. 34:1(A)(1) and (2), (C), (E)(4), (G), (H), 3, and 26; Adds R.S. 34:1(B)(4), (E)(5), and (F)(4))