
DIGEST

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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))