

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 343

BY SENATOR BARROW

SPECIAL DISTRICTS. Provides relative to the Recreation and Park Commission for the parish of East Baton Rouge. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:4570.1, relative to the Recreation and Park Commission for  
3 the parish of East Baton Rouge; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the  
4 board of commissioners; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 33:4570.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §4570.1. Board of commissioners; officers; quorum; employees

9 A. The commission shall be composed of ~~five~~ **three** ex officio members and  
10 ~~four~~ **six** appointed members for a total of nine commissioners. The ex officio  
11 members shall be the ~~mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge,~~  
12 ~~Central, St. George, and Zachary. Each mayor may designate a person to serve in his~~  
13 ~~place as a member of the commission. Each designee shall serve at the pleasure of~~  
14 ~~the designating mayor. The ex officio members shall serve during their terms of~~  
15 ~~office.~~ **mayor-president, or an officer or employee of the city or parish**  
16 **designated by the mayor-president from time to time; a member of the school**  
17 **board of East Baton Rouge Parish, designated by the school board for a term**

1 coincident with his term on the school board; and a member of the planning  
2 commission designated by the planning commission for a term coincident with  
3 his term on the planning commission. The ~~four~~ **six** appointed members shall be  
4 qualified voters of the parish appointed by the ~~governing authority of the city of~~  
5 ~~Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge~~ **metropolitan council** for terms of three  
6 years. ~~Of the four appointed members, at least two shall be residents of the city of~~  
7 ~~Baton Rouge, and at least one shall be a resident of the unincorporated area of East~~  
8 ~~Baton Rouge Parish. Following the release of each federal decennial census, the~~  
9 ~~commission may, by majority vote, reallocate these designated residency~~  
10 ~~requirements to reflect the changes in population distribution across the parish. Any~~  
11 ~~such reallocation shall apply prospectively and shall not alter the term of any sitting~~  
12 ~~member.~~ Vacancies shall be filled by the designating or appointing authority **body**  
13 **for the unexpired portion of the term.** All commission members shall serve  
14 without compensation.

15 B. The commission shall elect from its **the six appointed** members a  
16 chairman, a vice chairman, and a treasurer whose terms of office shall be one year.  
17 ~~Five~~ **Four** members shall constitute a quorum of the commission for all purposes.  
18 The commission shall have the power and authority to name and employ a person  
19 who shall be designated as superintendent of the commission, who shall not be a  
20 member of the commission, and who shall be ex officio secretary of the commission,  
21 and to prescribe and pay an annual salary to the superintendent.

22 Section 2. The Plan of Government of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and the city  
23 of Baton Rouge is mandated by its Home Rule Charter. In its Charter, Section 11.02, titled  
24 "Recreation and Park Commission", it states in part "The Recreation and Park Commission  
25 for East Baton Rouge Parish shall consist of: the mayor-president, or an officer or employee  
26 of the city parish designated by the mayor-president from time to time; a member of the  
27 school board of East Baton Rouge Parish appointed by the school board for a term  
28 coincident with his term on the school board; a member of the planning commission  
29 appointed by the latter for a term coincident with his term on the planning commission; and

1 six qualified voters of the parish appointed by the Metropolitan Council for terms of three  
2 years. The six members of the commission appointed by the council in office on January 1,  
3 1953, shall each continue to hold office until the expiration of the term for which he was  
4 appointed, thereafter his successor shall be appointed for a term of three years. Vacancies  
5 among the appointive members shall be filled by the appointing body of the unexpired  
6 portion of the term...".

7 Section 3. Act No. 391 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature enacted  
8 changes to the membership of the Recreation and Park Commission for East Baton Rouge  
9 Parish in contradiction to the structure and organization of the plan of government of the  
10 parish of East Baton Rouge and the city of Baton Rouge; thus failing to adhere to Article VI,  
11 Section 5(E) and Section 6 of the Constitution of Louisiana in which Section 6 particularly  
12 states, "[t]he legislature shall enact no law the effect of which changes or affects the  
13 structure and organization or the particular distribution and redistribution of the powers and  
14 functions of any local governmental subdivision which operates under a home rule charter,".

15 Section 4. The terms of the members of the Recreation and Park Commission for the  
16 parish of East Baton Rouge in office on the effective date of this Act shall terminate on that  
17 date; however, the members shall remain in office until the commission members take office  
18 as provided in this Act. The members of the Recreation and Park Commission for the parish  
19 of East Baton Rouge shall take office as provided in this Act and shall serve terms of office  
20 as provided in this Act.

21 Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
22 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
23 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
24 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
25 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original 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)]

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DIGEST

SB 343 Original 2026 Regular Session Barrow

Present law provides for the membership of the commission to provide for five ex officio members and four members appointed by the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge for three-year terms. Provides that the five ex officio members are the mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, St. George, and Zachary. Requires that at least two of the appointed members be residents of the city of Baton Rouge and at least one be a resident of an unincorporated area of East Baton Rouge Parish. Authorizes the commission, following the release of each federal decennial census, by majority vote, to reallocate these designated residency requirements to reflect changes in population distribution across the parish. Present law provides that five members constitute a quorum.

Proposed law provides the commission is to be comprised of nine members, six of whom are appointed by the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge and three of whom are ex officio members. The three ex officio members are the mayor-president or his designee, a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish school board designated by the school board, and a member of the planning commission designated by the planning commission. Proposed law also provides that four members constitute a quorum.

Present constitution states the legislature shall enact no law the effect of which changes or affects the structure and organization or the particular distribution and redistribution of the powers and functions of any local governmental subdivision which operates under a home rule charter.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 33:4570.1)