

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 663

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON

DISTRICTS/SPECIAL: Modifies the composition of the board of the commissioners of the Delta Economic Research and Sustainability District

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:342(A)(introductory paragraph) and (10) through (24) and
3 (B)(2) and to repeal R.S. 3:342(A)(2), (25), and (26), relative to the Delta Economic
4 Research and Sustainability District; to modify the membership of the board of
5 commissioners of the district; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to
6 alphabetize and renumber certain definitions; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:342(A)(introductory paragraph) and (10) through (24) and (B)(2)
9 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §342. Board of commissioners; members; officers; personal immunity

11 A. The district shall be governed by a board of commissioners, referred to
12 in this Part as the "board", consisting of ~~twenty-six~~ twenty-three members as follows:

13 * * *

14 ~~(10) The president of the Louisiana State University System or his designee.~~

15 ~~(11)~~ (10) The president of Grambling State University or his designee.

16 ~~(12)~~ (11) The state representative for House District 19 or his designee.

17 ~~(13)~~ (12) The state representative for House District 21 or his designee.

18 ~~(14)~~ (13) The state senator for Senate District 32 or his designee.

19 ~~(15)~~ (14) The state senator for Senate District 34 or his designee.

20 ~~(16)~~ (15) The mayor of the city of Tallulah or his designee.

- 1 ~~(17)~~ (16) The mayor of the town of Lake Providence or his designee.
- 2 ~~(18)~~ (17) The mayor of the town of Newellton or his designee.
- 3 ~~(19)~~ (18) The mayor of the town of St. Joseph or his designee.
- 4 ~~(20)~~ (19) The mayor of the town of Waterproof or his designee.
- 5 ~~(21)~~ (20) The mayor of the town of Clayton or his designee.
- 6 ~~(22)~~ (21) The mayor of the town of Ferriday or his designee.
- 7 ~~(23)~~ (22) The mayor of the town of Vidalia or his designee.
- 8 ~~(24)~~ (23) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development or his designee
- 9 as an ex officio nonvoting member.
- 10 (24) The executive director of the Louisiana State University Center for
- 11 Energy Studies or his designee as an ex officio nonvoting member.

B.

* * *

(2) The presidents of Louisiana Tech University, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Southern University System, ~~Louisiana State University System~~, and Grambling State University and the chair of the Louisiana Public Transit Association shall serve as ex officio members without voting rights.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 3:342(A)(2), (25), and (26) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 3:342(A) and to correct any cross-references to the renumbered paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions of this Act.

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 663 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Travis Johnson

Abstract: Modifies the membership and reduces the size of the board of commissioners of the Delta Economic Research and Sustainability District.

Present law creates the board of commissioners (board) of the Delta Economic Research and Sustainability District consisting of 26 members from various entities within the district and from outside.

Proposed law reduces the membership of the board by eliminating the following seats on the board:

- (1) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry or his designee.
- (2) The president of the La. State University System or his designee.
- (3) The president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation or his designee as a nonvoting ex officio member.
- (4) The president of the La. Cotton and Grain Assoc. or his designee as a nonvoting ex officio member.
- (5) The chair of the La. Public Transit Assoc. as a nonvoting ex officio member.

Proposed law adds the executive director of the La. State University Center for Energy Studies as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the board.

(Amends R.S. 3:342(A)(intro. para.) and (10)-(24) and (B)(2); Repeals R.S. 3:342(A)(2), (25), and (26))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Remove the commissioner of agriculture and forestry or his designee as a member of the board of commissioners.
2. Remove the chair of the La. Public Transit Assoc. as a nonvoting ex officio member.