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SB 374 Engrossed

DIGEST
2026 Regular Session

Cathey

Proposed law establishes the statewide college economic development district implementation.

Proposed law provides that a college economic and development district, created pursuant to proposed law shall be created only upon the adoption of an ordinance by the appropriate local governing authority shall not include any residential property.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the district is to provide for cooperative economic and community development among the district, the colleges, the parish or municipal governing authority, the state, and the owners of property in the district.

Proposed law provides that the parish or municipal governing authority shall establish the boundaries of a district in the ordinance creating it; the boundaries may be changed and are not required to be contiguous.

Proposed law provides that the district is governed by a board of commissioners, comprised as follows:

- (1) The highest executive officer of the college.
- (2) Four persons appointed by the highest executive officer of the college.

Proposed law provides that two of the members of the board shall be representatives from business within the district.

Proposed law provides that commissioners serve five-year terms, with vacancies filled in the manner of the original appointment. Provides that the president shall serve as long as he is president of the university. Two members shall serve an initial term of two years, and two members shall serve an initial term of three years, as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board. However, if an appointment to fill a vacancy is not made within 60 days, the board shall appoint an interim successor to serve until the position is filled by the appointing authority. Authorizes removal of a commissioner for cause by a three-fourths vote of the board. Provides that commissioners serve without compensation but authorizes reimbursement of expenses.

Proposed law provides that the official journal of the district is the official journal of the parish where the domicile of the board is located. Provides that a district created pursuant to proposed law is a political subdivision of the state and has the powers of a political subdivision.

Proposed law provides for the following powers:

- (1) To develop public improvement projects for the benefit of the respective college, either directly with the respective college or through one or more private foundations or nonprofit corporations affiliated with the respective college, or both.
- (2) To exercise the powers granted to a college economic development district established pursuant to present law (R.S. 33:9038.33 and 9038.34). Present law authorizes the district to utilize increment financing. Further authorizes a district to levy ad valorem taxes up to five mills, sales taxes up to two percent, and hotel occupancy taxes up to two percent, all subject to voter approval unless there are no voters in the district.
- (3) To exercise the powers granted to a community development district established pursuant to present law (R.S. 33:9038.29).

Proposed law provides procedures for the levy of any tax or assessment, including a requirement for voter approval unless there are no voters in the district. If a district is expanded to include an area where qualified electors reside, proposed law prohibits collection of a tax in the added area unless the qualified electors of that added area approve the tax.

Proposed law authorizes the district to create subdistricts which are governed by the board of commissioners and have the same powers as the district.

Proposed law provides that each college economic development district and any subdistrict created by the college district, and the governing board of commissioners for the district and subdistrict shall not have any power, authority or right to levy taxes, assessment or fees of any type or form on any property in any area within the district or subdistrict that is used or operated now or in the future for any industrial use, as defined in proposed law.

Proposed law defines "exempt entity" and "industrial activities".

Proposed law provides that each college economic development district and any subdistrict created by the college district may be the recipient of a sales or use tax increment which consist of that portion of the designated incremental sales or use tax collected each year on the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property, and on sales of services.

Proposed law provides that the sales or use tax increment may include hotel occupancy taxes, occupancy taxes, or similar taxes, or any combination of such taxes, levied upon the use or occupancy of hotel rooms if so designated by the governing authority of the district as the tax recipient entity, from taxpayers located within a college economic development district and subdistrict which exceeds the designated sales or use tax revenues and hotel occupancy taxes, occupancy taxes, or similar taxes so designated that were collected in the year immediately prior to the year in which the college economic development district and any subdistrict was established.

Proposed law authorizes the district to issue bonds and to otherwise incur debt. Provides requirements and procedures therefor.

Proposed law provides that the district shall dissolve and cease to exist upon the later to occur of either one year after the date on which all debt of the district is paid in full or 50 years from the creation of the district.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9731)