

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 440

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

SPECIAL DISTRICTS. Provides for the membership of the board of commissioners in a renaissance district. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:1109.21 and 1109.22(A), relative to a renaissance district; to  
3 provide relative to a renaissance district in the parish of Rapides; to provide relative  
4 to juvenile detention, education, and rehabilitation; to provide relative to the board  
5 of commissioners of the renaissance district; to provide relative to the powers, duties,  
6 and functions of the board; and to provide for related matters.

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

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 15:1109.21 and 1109.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to  
10 read as follows:

11 §1109.21. Renaissance district; creation; jurisdiction

12 A renaissance district is hereby created in ~~any~~ **the** parish **of Rapides** ~~having~~  
13 ~~a population of more than one hundred twenty-nine thousand and less than one~~  
14 ~~hundred thirty-two thousand persons according to the most recent federal decennial~~  
15 ~~census~~, which shall be a political subdivision of the state.

16 §1109.22. Board of commissioners; appointment; terms

17 A. The renaissance district shall be governed by a commission which shall

1 control, administer, and manage its affairs. The commission shall be composed of  
2 ~~seven~~ **nine** commissioners, and each shall be a qualified elector of and domiciled in  
3 the parish. Each commissioner shall be appointed for a term of four years as follows:

4 (1) ~~Five~~ **Four** members shall be appointed by the parish **of Rapides**  
5 governing authority as follows:

6 (a) ~~Two~~ **One** ~~members~~ **member** shall be appointed from ~~an existing~~ **the**  
7 **prior nonprofit entity** renaissance board of directors as long as **members of** that  
8 board ~~exists~~ **are capable of serving**, after which time ~~two~~ **one** ~~members~~ **member**  
9 shall be appointed from the residents of the parish who are not employed by the  
10 parish police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education,  
11 rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

12 (b) Three members who are not employed by the parish police jury who have  
13 experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

14 (2) One member who is employed by the sheriff's office of the parish **of**  
15 **Rapides** having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or  
16 incarceration of juveniles.

17 (3) One member who is employed by the office of the district attorney of the  
18 parish **of Rapides** having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or  
19 incarceration of juveniles.

20 **(4) Three members appointed by the Central Louisiana Juvenile**  
21 **Detention District having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation,**  
22 **or incarceration of juveniles.**

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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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Present law (R.S. 15:1109.21) creates a renaissance district in any parish having a population of more than 129,000 and less than 132,000 persons, which shall be a political subdivision of the state with a territorial jurisdiction throughout the parish to be governed by a board of

commissioners.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the designation of the district from being identified by population to the parish of Rapides.

Present law (R.S. 15:1109.22) provides that the board of commissioners be composed of seven commissioners and that each be a qualified elector and domiciled in the parish.

Proposed law retains present law but increases the number of commissioners from seven to nine.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners be appointed for four year terms as follows:

- (1) Five members will be appointed by the parish police jury as follows:
  - (a) Two members appointed from an existing renaissance home board of directors as long as that board exists, after which time two members will be appointed from the residents of the parish who are not employed by the parish police jury and who has experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
  - (b) Three members who are not employed by the parish police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (2) One member who is employed by the sheriff's office of the parish and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (3) One member who is employed by the office of the district attorney of the parish and who has experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

Proposed law provides that the board of commissioners be appointed for four year terms as follows:

- (1) Four members will be appointed by the parish of Rapides governing authority as follows:
  - (a) One member will be appointed from the prior nonprofit entity renaissance board of directors as long as members of that board are capable of serving, after which time one member shall be appointed from the residents of the parish who are not employed by the parish police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
  - (b) Three members who are not employed by the parish police jury who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (2) One member who is employed by the sheriff's office of the parish of Rapides having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (3) One member who is employed by the office of the district attorney of the parish of Rapides having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.
- (4) Three members appointed by the Central Louisiana Juvenile Detention District

having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

Present law provides that the members of the board of commissioners serve without a salary or per diem but authorizes the board to provide reasonable travel allowances for members in the performance of official duties.

Proposed law retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 15:1109.21 and 1109.22(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Make technical change.