

ACT No. 789

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVE TERRY LANDRY

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2740.8(D), (E)(2) and (5), (F) through (I), and (N), relative
3 to the Downtown Development District of the city of Baton Rouge; to provide
4 relative to the governing board of the district; to provide relative to the membership
5 of the board; to provide relative to the appointment of board members; to provide
6 relative to the terms and compensation of the members; to provide relative to the
7 powers and duties of the district; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the
8 city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge with respect to the district; and to
9 provide for related matters.

10 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
11 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
12 Louisiana.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.8(D), (E)(2) and (5), (F) through (I), and (N) are hereby
15 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

16 §2740.8. The downtown development district of the city of Baton Rouge; creation,
17 composition and powers; preparation of plans, levy of special ad valorem
18 taxes, and issuance of bonds and other instruments of indebtedness

19 * * *

20 D.(1) The board shall be composed of seven members, all of whom shall be
21 qualified voters of the parish of East Baton Rouge, and shall have their principal
22 place of business or profession in, or own property in, the ~~Downtown Development~~
23 ~~District~~ district. The seven members shall be appointed as follows:

24 (a) One member ~~of the board~~ shall be appointed at-large by the
25 mayor-president, with the approval of the metro council.

1 (b) One member ~~of the board~~ shall be appointed by the mayor-president,
 2 with the approval of the metro council, from a list of four nominees submitted by the
 3 ~~Greater Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce~~ governing board of the Greater
 4 Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

5 ~~(c) One member of the board shall be appointed by the mayor-president, with~~
 6 ~~the approval of the metro council, from a list of four nominees submitted by the~~
 7 ~~Riverside Association.~~

8 ~~(d) Two members of the board shall be appointed by the mayor-president,~~
 9 ~~with the approval of the metro council, from a list of six nominees submitted by~~
 10 ~~property owners and lessees of property located within the jurisdictional boundaries~~
 11 ~~of the district.~~

12 ~~(e)~~ (c) One member shall be appointed by the mayor-president, with the
 13 approval of the metro council, and who shall be a resident of Spanish Town.

14 ~~(f)~~ (d) One member shall be appointed by the mayor-president, with the
 15 approval of the metro council, and who shall be a resident of Beauregard Town.

16 (e) Three members shall be appointed by the mayor-president, with the
 17 approval of the metro council, who shall be property owners or lessees of property
 18 located within the boundaries of the district. At least one member shall be a property
 19 owner and at least one member shall be a lessee.

20 ~~(2)(a) The members of the board initially appointed shall have terms of~~
 21 ~~office as follows:~~

- 22 ~~(i) Two members for one year each;~~
- 23 ~~(ii) Two members for two years each; and~~
- 24 ~~(iii) Three members for three years each.~~

25 ~~(b) The length of the term for each individual appointed shall be determined~~
 26 ~~by lot at the first meeting of the board. The members of the board shall serve three-~~
 27 ~~year terms.~~

28 ~~(e)~~ (b) The members of the board shall serve until their successors have been
 29 appointed and qualified.

1 F.(1) The metro council shall appoint an executive director for the district
2 who has been recommended by the board.

3 (2) The executive director shall appoint an assistant executive director and
4 shall hire or contract other professional, clerical, and support staff as deemed
5 necessary by the board.

6 G. The district, acting through its board, shall have the following powers and
7 duties:

8 (1) To sue and be sued.

9 (2) To adopt and use a seal and authorize the use of a facsimile thereof.

10 (3) To acquire by gift, grant, purchase, or lease movable or immovable
11 property and to dispose of such property.

12 (4) To make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary to the
13 business of the district or convenient to the exercise of its powers.

14 (5) To contract for the services of consultants to perform planning,
15 engineering, financial, legal, or other appropriate services of a professional nature.

16 (6) To receive by gift, grant, loan, or donation any sum of money or
17 property, aid, or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any
18 political subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation and to hold, use, and
19 dispose of such monies or property for any district purposes in accordance with the
20 terms of the agreement of the gift, grant, loan, or donation.

21 (7) To adopt bylaws prescribing the powers, duties, and functions of the
22 officers of the district, the conduct of the business of the district, and the
23 maintenance of records.

24 (8) To maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate within
25 the district.

26 (9) To lease as lessor or lessee to or from any person, firm, corporation,
27 association, or body, public or private any facilities or property of any nature for
28 district purposes.

29 (10) To borrow money and issue bonds, certificates, warrants, notes, or other
30 evidences of indebtedness.

1 (11) To levy such special assessments as may be authorized and to charge,
2 collect, and enforce fees and other user charges.

3 (12) To cooperate with, or contract with, other governmental agencies as
4 may be necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper in connection with any of the
5 powers, duties, or purposes authorized by this Section.

6 (13) To exercise all of the powers necessary and proper in connection with
7 any of the powers, duties, or purposes authorized by this Section.

8 F.~~(1)~~ H. The ~~board~~ district shall prepare or cause to be prepared a plan or
9 plans specifying the public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be
10 furnished, constructed, or acquired for the district and shall conduct such public
11 hearings, publish such notice with respect thereto, and disseminate such information
12 as it, in the exercise of its sound discretion, may deem to be appropriate or advisable
13 and in the public interest.

14 ~~(2) Any plan may specify and encompass any public services, capital~~
15 ~~improvements, and facilities which the city of Baton Rouge and the parish of East~~
16 ~~Baton Rouge are authorized to undertake, furnish, or provide under the constitution~~
17 ~~and laws of the state of Louisiana, and such specified public services, improvements,~~
18 ~~and facilities shall be special and in addition to all services, improvements, and~~
19 ~~facilities which the city of Baton Rouge is then furnishing or providing or may then~~
20 ~~or in the future be obligated to furnish or provide within the district.~~

21 ~~(3) Any plan shall include:~~

22 ~~(a) An estimate of the annual and total cost of acquiring, constructing, or~~
23 ~~providing the services, improvements, or facilities set forth therein.~~

24 ~~(b) The proportion of the tax to be levied on the taxable real property within~~
25 ~~the district which is to be set aside and dedicated to paying the cost of furnishing~~
26 ~~specified services and the proportion of such tax to be set aside and dedicated to~~
27 ~~paying the cost of capital improvements or paying the cost of debt service on any~~
28 ~~bonds to be issued to pay the cost of capital improvements, such proportions, in each~~
29 ~~case, to be expressed in numbers of mills.~~

1 ~~(c) An estimate of the total number of mills required to be levied each year~~
2 ~~on the taxable real property within the district in order to provide the funds required~~
3 ~~for the implementation of the plan for furnishing the specified services and for~~
4 ~~capital improvements, debt service, or both.~~

5 ~~(4) The board shall also submit the plan to the city-parish planning~~
6 ~~commission. The planning commission shall review the plan and determine whether~~
7 ~~or not it is consistent with the comprehensive plan for the city of Baton Rouge. The~~
8 ~~planning commission, within thirty days following receipt of the plan, shall submit~~
9 ~~to the metro council its written opinion as to whether or not the plan or any portion~~
10 ~~or detail thereof is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan for the city, together~~
11 ~~with its written comments and recommendations with respect thereto.~~

12 ~~(5)(a) After receipt of the plan together with the written comments and~~
13 ~~recommendations of the city-parish planning commission, the metro council shall~~
14 ~~review and consider the plan together with the written comments and~~
15 ~~recommendations. The metro council, by a majority vote of all its members, may~~
16 ~~adopt or reject the plan as originally submitted by the board or alter or modify the~~
17 ~~plan or any portion or detail thereof.~~

18 ~~(b) If the plan as originally submitted by the board is adopted by the majority~~
19 ~~vote of the metro council, it shall become final and conclusive and may thereafter be~~
20 ~~implemented. If the metro council alters or modifies the plan by a majority vote of~~
21 ~~its members, the plan as altered or modified shall be resubmitted to the board for its~~
22 ~~concurrence or rejection.~~

23 ~~(c) The board may concur in the modified plan by a majority vote of all of~~
24 ~~its members. If the board votes to concur in the plan as modified by the metro~~
25 ~~council, the plan shall become final and conclusive and may thereafter be~~
26 ~~implemented. If the board does not concur in the plan as modified by the metro~~
27 ~~council, it shall notify the metro council in writing of its decision.~~

28 ~~(d) Thereafter and as often as the board may deem to be necessary or~~
29 ~~advisable, it shall prepare or cause to be prepared a plan or plans and submit the~~
30 ~~same to the planning commission in accordance with the same procedure~~

1 hereinabove prescribed with respect to the original plan. The planning commission
 2 shall submit such plan, together with their written comments and recommendations,
 3 to the metro council for its adoption, modification, or rejection in the manner and
 4 with the same effect as provided with respect to the original plan.

5 G.(1)(a) ~~The provisions of Subsection F of this Section to the contrary~~
 6 notwithstanding, the board may prepare and submit directly to the metro council a
 7 plan or plans setting forth its intention to employ professional consultants, experts,
 8 and such other advisors and personnel as it shall deem to be necessary or convenient
 9 to assist in the preparation of a plan or plans for the orderly and efficient
 10 development of services and improvements within the district.

11 (b) ~~The plan shall specify the services proposed to be rendered by such~~
 12 employees, an estimate of the aggregate of the proposed salaries of such employees,
 13 and an estimate of the other expenses of the board required for the preparation of
 14 such plan or plans, together with a request that a tax in an amount sufficient to cover
 15 the costs of such salaries and expenses be levied on the real property within the
 16 district.

17 (c) ~~The plan shall include a proposed budget of income and expenditure~~
 18 specified source of funding for each of the years the tax is to run.

19 (2)(a) ~~The metro council shall review and consider such plan within thirty~~
 20 days following submission to it by the board and shall adopt or reject such plan by
 21 a majority vote of its members.

22 (b) ~~If the metro council adopts such plan, it shall become final and~~
 23 conclusive, and the tax requested by the board upon approval by special referendum
 24 of the electorate of the parish of East Baton Rouge, as required by Subsection J of
 25 this Section, shall be levied and collected.

26 (c) ~~If the metro council rejects the plan, it shall notify the board of its action,~~
 27 and the board may again and from time to time prepare and submit to the metro
 28 council a plan in accordance with the procedures provided for this in this Subsection.

29 H. ~~If no plan is finally and conclusively adopted in accordance with the~~
 30 procedures prescribed in this Section within four years after the effective date of this

1 shall continue to serve until the expiration of their current terms. The successors of such
2 members shall serve three-year terms.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____