



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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JUN 24 2026

SENATE
SECRETARY'S
OFFICE

June 12, 2026

The Honorable Cameron Henry
President of the Senate
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Yolanda Dixon
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St., Basement
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Senate Bill Number 283 of the 2026 Regular Session by Senator Regina Barrow

Dear President Henry and Secretary Dixon:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 283 of the 2026 Regular Session by Senator Regina Barrow. Senate Bill 283 would create two new special taxing districts, the BLVD at Harding Area Special District and Baton Rouge Community College Economic Development District.

The BLVD at Harding Area Special District would be granted broad authority, including tax increment financing and bonding, and the authority to levy ad valorem, sales, and hotel occupancy taxes. These powers, if exercised to their limits, could increase the combined sales tax within the district to as much as twelve and one-half percent (12.5%). Residential property appears to be intentionally excluded from this district; therefore, any taxes imposed would not be subject to voter approval. (*See* R.S. 33:9038.33 "in the event that there are no qualified electors in the district as certified by the registrar of voters, no election shall be required.") Compounding this concern is the fact that the taxing authority of BLVD at Harding Area would be vested in a board made up, primarily, of unelected appointees and "any person who is an owner of property within the district." Senate Bill 283 sets up these two districts in such a manner to all but guarantee that they can impose taxes without voter approval.

The bill is also inconsistent and contradictory regarding the Baton Rouge Community College Economic Development District's boundaries. The district is specifically crafted to exclude all "residential properties." However, the bill provides that exclusion to any land used for residential purposes appears to contain conflicting dates: (1) the effective date of the bill; (2) June 30, 2026; and (3) January 24, 2026. These conflicting dates create uncertainty around which date to be used to determine which land may constitute residential property.

June 12, 2026
SB 283 Veto Message

The result of this bill would allow a largely unelected and unaccountable board to increase the cost of every taxable purchase made within these districts without voter approval. For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 283 and am returning it to the Senate.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned Senate Bill 283