
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

DIGEST

Amedee (SB 278)

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of Ascension Parish to create special taxing districts for funding infrastructure development.

Proposed law requires that the parish governing authority hold a public hearing before creating such a district. Provides that the parish governing authority may serve as the governing authority of such a district or may provide for the appointment of a governing authority. Authorizes any such district to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain a wide variety of specified infrastructure projects.

Proposed law authorizes a district to levy taxes as follows:

- (1) An ad valorem tax not to exceed 20 mills for any lawful purpose of the district. Provides that not more than three mills of such tax may be dedicated to or used for ordinary operating expenses of the district.
- (2) A benefit special assessment to finance district facilities and projects. Provides that the amount assessed against each property in the district shall be determined by apportioning the costs of the improvements according to benefits received.
- (3) A maintenance special assessment to finance maintenance and preservation of district facilities and projects. Provides that the amount assessed against each property in the district shall be determined by apportioning the costs of the improvements according to benefits received.

Proposed law grants a district the following additional powers and duties:

- (1) To adopt bylaws.
- (2) To adopt and alter an official seal.
- (3) To maintain an office and to occupy space made available by the city-parish governing authority.
- (4) To sue and to be sued.
- (5) To receive, administer, and comply with the conditions and requirements respecting any gift, grant, guarantee, subsidy, or donation of any property or money.

- (6) To acquire and to hold and use any franchise or property.
- (7) To borrow money and issue bonds.
- (8) To make and execute contracts.
- (9) To pledge or assign any revenues.
- (10) To employ such employees, to make use of such persons as the city-parish governing authority may make available to the district, and to employ or otherwise retain the services of accountants, financial advisors, underwriters, attorneys, engineers, and such other consultants.
- (11) To exercise any and all other powers necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth herein.

Proposed law authorizes the district to issue bonds secured by the ad valorem taxes and the non ad valorem assessments. Requires voter approval for the issuance of general obligation bonds.

Proposed law retains present constitution and present law and provides that bonds issued pursuant to proposed law shall be in accordance with present constitution and present law.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:4690.13)