
DIGEST

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Geymann

HB No. 580

Abstract: Relative to waterworks districts located within the parishes of Beauregard and Calcasieu, limits the powers granted to the governing authorities of such districts.

Present law generally authorizes parishes to create waterworks districts to oversee the installation, operation, and maintenance of waterworks systems. Provides that each waterworks district is governed by a board of five commissioners, with certain exceptions. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the powers and duties of the waterworks districts, including the authority to expropriate property for any purpose that it may find necessary in the operation of its waterworks system, and the authority to acquire by donation or purchase any existing waterworks system in the district. Authorizes the districts to acquire all machinery necessary for the purpose of affecting the object for which they are formed. Authorizes the districts to cooperate with other districts within their respective parishes and with private individuals, associations, corporations, or municipalities. Present law additionally authorizes waterworks districts that own property in an adjoining parish to expropriate property within their respective districts, to acquire by donation, purchase, exchange, lease, or otherwise, any property or facilities located at any location which affects the object for which the districts were formed, and to supply water services to other waterworks districts or fire districts in an adjoining parish, with certain exceptions.

Proposed law retains present law but provides limits on the powers granted to the governing authorities of waterworks districts located in Beauregard Parish or Calcasieu Parish. Prohibits any regulation adopted by such governing authorities from requiring a person who owns a residential dwelling to install a backflow preventer or a second water meter if there are only two or fewer residential dwellings located on the property.

Proposed law additionally prohibits the governing authorities from requiring a person who owns an inhabited dwelling to connect the dwelling to a water system owned by a waterworks district. Further prohibits the governing authorities from prohibiting the property owner from supplying water to his property from a well located on his property. Provides that the use of well water is subject to federal and state law.

(Adds R.S. 33:3815.5)