
DIGEST

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HB No. 951

Abstract: Creates the University Acres Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and overall betterment of the district. Provides for a board of commissioners and for the imposition and use of an improved parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the University Acres Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention by providing increased security for the district residents and the overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district shall be governed by a board of commissioners consisting of the following members:

- (1) The president of the University Acres Citizens Association, Inc., or its successor.
- (2) Three members appointed by the board of directors of the University Acres Citizens Association.
- (3) One member appointed by the member or members of the La. House of Representatives who represent the area which comprises the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member or members of the La. Senate who represent the area which comprises the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the member or members of the East Rouge Parish Metro Council who represent the area which comprises the district.

Proposed law provides that all appointing authorities will be given a list of nominations to the board by the association. Provides that appointments to the board shall be made within 30 days of receipt of the list. Provides that if the appointing authority responsible for the appointment of a member fails to fill a vacancy within 30 days, the board of directors of the association shall appoint an interim successor to serve until the position is filled by the appointing authority.

Proposed law provides that all members shall serve without compensation and shall be registered voters within the district. Provides that a majority of the members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and that a quorum must be present at the beginning of a meeting for the board to take action. Each member shall have one vote and any action of the board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

Proposed law provides that the district has the following powers and duties:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
- (3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to Subsection F of this Section and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by Subsection G of this Section.
- (4) To enforce municipal use and development rules and regulations affecting or relating to the beautification and security of the district.
- (5) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.
- (6) To provide for or enhance security patrols in the district, to provide for improved lighting, signage, or other matters relating to the security of the district, including the landscaping and maintenance of areas of the district.
- (7) To purchase items and supplies necessary for achieving any purpose of the district.
- (8) To accept private grants and donations.
- (9) To procure and maintain liability insurance against any personal or legal liability of a board member that may be asserted or incurred based upon his or her service as a member of the board or that may arise as a result of his or her actions taken within the scope and discharge of his or her duties as a member of the board.
- (10) To perform or have performed any function or activity the board deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the board, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a improved parcel fee within the district which amount shall be as provided by duly adopted board resolution. Provides that the initial parcel fee for the first calendar year shall be \$365 and shall not exceed \$500 per improved parcel per year. Defines parcel as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a condominium improved parcel as defined in present law (R.S. 9:1121.103). Defines improved as a parcel upon which a single-family or multi-family dwelling or condominium has been constructed.

Proposed law provides that the fee shall be imposed on each unit within a multi-family dwelling and if multiple adjacent parcels are combined for the purpose of housing a single family dwelling, the combined parcel shall constitute only a single improved parcel for the purposes of the imposition of the fee.

Proposed law authorizes the district to levy and collect and fee for 15 years from initial levy and authorizes renewal. Provides that the fee shall be collected in the same manner and at the same

time as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the parish tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

Proposed law requires that the fee proceeds be used solely and exclusively for the district's purpose and benefit. Authorizes the sheriff to retain a collection fee of not more than 1% of the amount of the fees collected and requires the sheriff to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection.

Proposed law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law provides that it is the purpose and intent of proposed law that the additional law enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized by proposed law shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services provided in the district by the city of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law requires the district's board, if the district ceases to exist, to transmit all district funds to the parish. Requires that such funds together with any other funds collected by the parish of East Baton Rouge pursuant to proposed law be maintained in a separate account by the parish. Requires that such funds be used only to promote, encourage, and enhance the security, beautification, and overall betterment of the area included in the district.

Proposed law provides that no board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district for the monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board member or officer unless the board member performs an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or any transaction from which he or she derives an improper personal benefit.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.22)