

Prior law authorized levee districts and levee and drainage districts employ police officers who are to be responsible for maintaining order and exercising general police power, including the power to arrest, on and off the levees, within the area of the district, and upon its surrounding waters. Provided that each person named as a police officer by the president of district must be commissioned as a peace officer by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC) in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:1379.1, and the commission remains in force and effect at the pleasure of the president and the DPSC subject to applicable civil service regulations. Also required, prior to commissioning the person commissioned must have, as a minimum requirement, completed a training program and received certification as a peace officer by the Louisiana Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Council).

Each district must obtain police liability insurance and each police officer must execute a \$10,000 bond, the premium of which must be paid by the district.

Prior law specifically authorized Lafourche Basin Levee District police officers in the classified service of the state, limited to four officers, to be responsible for maintaining order and exercising general police power on the levees within the area of that district and upon its surrounding waters, including the right to carry concealed weapons and to exercise the power of arrest, in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated for that purpose by the secretary of the DPSC. Required a person prior to being commissioned to have, as a minimum requirement, successfully completed a certified law enforcement training course and basic firearms training program, including annual recertification, and met the other requirements set by the secretary of DPSC; and then to be commissioned by the secretary. The commission remains in force and effect at the pleasure of the president and the DPSC subject to applicable civil service regulations.

Also authorized the president of the Lafourche Basin Levee District to contract with sheriffs' offices within the area of the district to provide police protection and surveillance of the levee system if approved by the board of commissioners.

New law authorizes the Port of South Louisiana, the Lafourche Basin Levee District, and the Pontchartrain Levee District to coordinate and cooperate jointly with each other to maintain order and to exercise general police power within the areas of such port and districts and upon their levees by authorizing the executive directors of the port and the districts to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement to exercise combined police protection. Provides for employment of officers and other personnel, equipment, and administrative services, necessary and useful and the sharing of costs and expenses associated with providing such police protection.

New law provides that the cooperative endeavor agreement require that the title to equipment used pursuant to the agreement which is owned by the port of the district will remain with the port or district.

New law requires all law enforcement personnel to be subordinate to a chief law enforcement officer who is to supervise and direct the administration and operation of the combined police protection and has the general responsibility for law enforcement and the enforcement of all laws and ordinances within the areas of the port and districts.

The chief law enforcement officer is employed subject to applicable civil service regulations by a law enforcement coordinating and oversight committee composed of two members appointed by each governing authority of the districts and port. An applicant with at least 20 years of experience as a commissioned law enforcement is eligible for appointment as chief law enforcement officer.

New law requires any person employed as a police officer to be commissioned as a peace officer by DPSC. Authorizes such police officers to exercise the power of arrest as peace officers, according to law, within the combined jurisdictions and boundaries of the port and the districts.

New law prohibits the Port of South Louisiana, the Lafourche Basin Levee District, and the Pontchartrain Levee District from authorizing any additional funding for a position beyond the limits of its budget.

New law creates the positions of executive director and assistant executive director for the Lafourche Basin Levee District and provides that both positions will be appointed by the board, and provides for duties.

New law prohibits the executive director and assistant executive director from being board members. Provides that both positions will be full-time unclassified employees of the board and paid compensation in an amount determined by the board.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 38:326.3 and 326.4)