

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 565

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, CARRIER, ECHOLS, FONTENOT, LAFLEUR,  
MARCELLE, SELDERS, AND THOMPSON

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:9097.37, relative to East Baton Rouge Parish, to create the University  
3 Security District; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose, governance, and  
4 powers and duties of the district; to provide relative to district funding, including the  
5 authority to impose a parcel fee within the district; to provide for an effective date;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 33:9097.37 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §9097.37. University Security District

13 A. There is hereby created within the parish of East Baton Rouge, as more  
14 specifically provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate  
15 which shall be known as the University Security District, referred to in this Section  
16 as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as defined  
17 in the Constitution of Louisiana.

18 B. The district shall encompass an area within the city of Baton Rouge,  
19 generally bounded on the north by Roosevelt Street, on the east by University Lake,  
20 Parker Blvd, and Burbank Drive, on the south by River Road, Laurel Lakes Sub. and  
21 Farr Park, and on the west by River Road, exclusive of the Riverbend Crime  
22 Prevention and Improvement District, and being more fully described as follows:

1           Commence at a point which is the intersection of the west right of way line  
2           of River Road with the extension of the north right of way line of West Roosevelt  
3           St.;

4           Thence proceed in an easterly direction along the north right of way line of  
5           West Roosevelt St., across Highland Rd to East Roosevelt St., and continuing  
6           easterly across Thomas Delpit Dr., then southerly and easterly along the north right  
7           of way line of East Roosevelt St. to its intersection with the southwest property line  
8           of McKinley High School property;

9           Thence proceed in a southeasterly then easterly direction along the south  
10          boundary of McKinley High School to a point which is the intersection of the  
11          southeast boundary of McKinley High School with the edge of water of a body of  
12          water commonly referred to as Lake Crest;

13          Thence proceed in a southerly and easterly direction along the westerly and  
14          southerly edge of Lake Crest to a point which is the intersection of the extension of  
15          the southern edge of Lake Crest with the east right of way line of Dalrymple Dr.;

16          Thence proceed in a southerly direction along the east right of way line of  
17          Dalrymple Drive to the southwest corner of Lot 3 of the division of a portion of Lot  
18          27, Richland Plantation;

19          Thence proceed easterly along the south line of Lot 3 of the division of a  
20          portion of Lot 27, Richland Plantation the water's edge of University Lake;

21          Thence proceed in a general southeasterly direction following along the  
22          various meanders of the water's edge of University Lake as it existed in April of  
23          2023, continuing along the water's edge along the south side of West Lakeshore Dr.  
24          to a point which is the intersection of the extension of the existing water's edge of  
25          University Lake with the center of Corporation Canal, at a point which is 30 feet  
26          south of the centerline of West Lakeshore Dr.;

27          Thence proceed southerly along a line that is parallel to and 30 feet south and  
28          east of the centerline of West Lakeshore Dr. to a point which is the intersection of  
29          a line that is 30 feet east of the centerline of the East Parker Blvd roadway;

1           Thence proceed in a southwesterly direction along a line that is 30 feet  
2           southeast of the centerline of East Parker Blvd. to a point which is the northwest  
3           corner of Lot 1-A, Lehavre Subdivision, which point is also on the south right of way  
4           line of East Parker Blvd.;

5           Thence proceed along the south right of way line of East Parker Blvd. to the  
6           intersection of the north right of way line of Highland Rd.;

7           Thence proceed in a southeast direction along the north right of way line of  
8           Highland Rd. to a point which is the intersection of the northeasterly extension of the  
9           easterly line of Lot A-2 of the former Hazel L. Kelley property with the north right  
10          of way line of Highland Rd.;

11          Thence proceed across Highland Rd along the southeast line of Lot A-2 of  
12          the former Hazel L. Kelley property to the north line of Highland Estates, aka,  
13          Highland Hideaway Townhomes;

14          Thence proceed in an westerly and southerly direction along the southeast  
15          line of said Highland Estates, aka, Highland Hideaway Townhomes, across the east  
16          branch of Bayou Fountain, and along the southeast line of Lot 4-A of the J.T.  
17          Williams Subdivision to the north right of way line of Burbank Dr.;

18          Thence proceed in a southeasterly direction along the north right of way line  
19          of Burbank Dr. to the intersection of the west right of way line of West Lee Dr.;

20          Thence proceed in a northeasterly direction along the west right of way line  
21          of West Lee Dr. to a point which is on the extension of the north line of Parcel 7,  
22          Circle N Ranch property;

23          Thence proceed in a southeasterly direction along the north line of Parcel 7,  
24          Circle N Ranch property, crossing Ben Hur Rd., and along the north and east line  
25          of Tract D-1-A of the Nelson Property to a point of the north right of way line of  
26          Burbank Dr.;

27          Thence proceed in a southeasterly direction along the north right of way line  
28          of Burbank Dr to a point which is 600 feet south of the southeast corner of Lot 8-A,  
29          University Acres Subdivision;

1           Thence proceed in a southwesterly direction, across Burbank dr., to a point  
2           which is the most northerly corner of Tract C-2-A-1-A-1 of the Nelson Property;

3           Thence proceed in a southerly direction along the east line of Tract  
4           C-2-A-1-A-1 of the Nelson Property to the southeast corner of Tract C-2-A-1-A-1  
5           of the Nelson Property;

6           Thence proceed in a southeasterly and easterly direction along the east  
7           property lines of Tracts C-2-A-1-A-1, C-2-A-2-A and C-2-A-3-A of the Nelson  
8           Property to a point on the north right of way line of Nicholson Dr.;

9           Thence proceed in a southeasterly direction along the north right of way line  
10          of Nicholson Dr. to a point which is the intersection of the east property line of the  
11          LSU Ag Center site, said line being the west line of Section 79, Township 8 South,  
12          Range 1 East and Section 73, Township 8 South , Range 1 West;

13          Thence proceed in a southerly direction along said Section line to a point  
14          which is the intersection of said Section line with the southerly right of way line of  
15          River Rd.;

16          Thence proceed in a westerly direction along the south right of way line of  
17          River Rd. to the intersection of the west property line of the LSU Ag Center Site,  
18          said line being the west line of Section 65, Township 8 South, Range 1 West;

19          Thence proceed northerly along the west property line of the LSU Ag center  
20          Site, said line being the west line of Section 65, Township 8 South, Range 1 East to  
21          the northwest corner of said Section 65;

22          Thence proceed in an easterly direction along the north line of said Section  
23          65 to the northeast corner of Section 65, said corner being the southwest corner of  
24          Section 41, Township 8 South, Range 1 West;

25          Thence proceed northerly along the west line of said Section 41 to the south  
26          property line of Laurel Lakes Estates Subdivision;

27          Thence proceed along the property line of Laurel Lakes Estates Subdivision  
28          in an easterly, then northerly, then westerly direction to a point on the eastern line  
29          of Riverbend Subdivision Third filing;

1           Thence proceed in a northerly direction along the east line of Riverbend  
 2           Subdivision, Third and First Filings to a point at the northeast corner of Lot 65 of  
 3           Riverbend Subdivision, First Filing;

4           Thence proceed in a easterly, then northerly, then northwesterly direction  
 5           along the property line of Tract X, Riverbend Subdivision, First filing to the east line  
 6           of Riverbend Subdivision, Fifth Filing, said point being the southeast corner of Lot  
 7           314 of said Riverbend Subdivision Fifth filing;

8           Thence proceed in a northerly direction along the east line of Riverbend  
 9           Subdivision Fifth Filing to the south right of way line of Brightside Lane;

10          Thence proceed in a westerly direction along the south right of way line of  
 11          Brightside Lane to a point which is on the west line of Riverbend Subdivision,  
 12          Eighth Filing;

13          Thence proceed in a westerly and southerly direction along the west line of  
 14          Riverbend Subdivision Eighth Filing to the southwest corner of Lot 810, said point  
 15          being the southeast corner of Riverbend Landing Subdivision, Third Filing, Part 3;

16          Thence proceed in a westerly direction along the south line of Riverbend  
 17          Landing Subdivision, Third Filing, Parts 3, 4 and Second Filings to the southwest  
 18          corner of Lot 658-A, Riverbend Landing Subdivision, Second Filing, said point  
 19          being on the east line of Lake Beau Pre' Subdivision;

20          Thence proceed in a southerly then westerly direction along the east and  
 21          south line of Lake Beau Pre' Subdivision and Lake Beau Pre' Townhomes, said south  
 22          line of Lake Beau Pre' and Lake Beau Pre' Townhomes also being the north line of  
 23          Tracts A, B and M-1-A of the BREC Farr Park, to the west right of way line of River  
 24          Road;

25          Thence proceed in a northerly direction along the west right of way line of  
 26          River Road to the point of beginning.

27          C. The purpose of the district shall be to aid in crime prevention and to add  
 28          to the security of district residents by providing for an increase in the presence of law  
 29          enforcement personnel in the district and to serve the needs of the residents of the

1 district by funding beautification and improvements for the overall betterment of the  
2 district.

3 D.(1) The district shall be governed by an eleven-member board of  
4 commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board". The board shall be  
5 composed as follows:

6 (a) The president of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and  
7 Mechanical College shall appoint four members.

8 (b) The board of directors of the Northgate Merchants Association shall  
9 appoint one member.

10 (c) The board of directors of the Southgate Merchants Association shall  
11 appoint one member.

12 (d) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district  
13 encompasses all or the greater number of property owners in the area of the district  
14 shall appoint one member.

15 (e) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses all or  
16 the greater number of property owners in the area of the district shall appoint one  
17 member.

18 (f) A person appointed by each councilperson of the East Baton Rouge  
19 Metropolitan Council whose district, either wholly or in part, is included in the  
20 boundaries of the district.

21 (2) Except for those members appointed by the president of Louisiana State  
22 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, all members of the board shall  
23 own property and reside within the district and shall be qualified voters of the  
24 district.

25 (3)(a) Members shall serve four-year terms after initial terms as provided in  
26 this Subparagraph. Three members shall serve an initial term of one year; three shall  
27 serve two years; three shall serve three years, and two shall serve four years, as  
28 determined by lot at the first meeting of the board.

29 (b) Any vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of the term for which  
30 a member of the board has been appointed shall be filled for the remainder of the

1 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. Board members  
2 shall be eligible for reappointment.

3 (4) The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, a  
4 secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. The duties  
5 of the officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

6 (5) The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the  
7 secretary of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the  
8 official custody of the board.

9 (6) The board shall adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary or advisable for  
10 conducting its business affairs. Rules and regulations of the board relative to the  
11 notice and conduct of meetings shall conform to applicable law, including, if  
12 applicable, the Open Meetings Law. The board shall hold regular meetings as shall  
13 be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special meetings at such times and  
14 places within the district as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

15 (7) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be  
16 reimbursed for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the  
17 governance of the district.

18 E. The district, acting through its board, shall have the following powers and  
19 duties:

20 (1) To sue and be sued.

21 (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

22 (3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to Subsections F and G  
23 of this Section and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by Subsection  
24 H of this Section.

25 (4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.

26 (5) To provide or enhance security patrols in the district, to provide for  
27 improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security of the district, to  
28 provide for the beautification of and improvements for the district, or to provide  
29 generally for the overall betterment of the district.

1           F. The district, through the board, may impose and collect a parcel fee within  
2           the district subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

3           (1)(a) The fee shall be imposed on each improved and unimproved parcel  
4           located within the district. The owner of the parcel shall be responsible for payment  
5           of the fee.

6           (b) For purposes of this Section, the fee shall be a flat fee per parcel not to  
7           exceed four hundred dollars per year for unimproved parcels zoned residential, four  
8           hundred dollars per year for unimproved and improved single-family parcels zoned  
9           residential, six hundred dollars per year for multiple adjacent residential parcels  
10           housing a single family dwelling; five thousand dollars per year for multi-family  
11           parcels zoned residential, and five thousand dollars per year for unimproved and  
12           improved parcels zoned commercial.

13           (2)(a) The initial amount of the fee shall be as provided in a duly adopted  
14           resolution of the governing authority of the district. The initial fee shall not exceed  
15           one hundred fifty dollars per parcel per year.

16           (b) The fee shall be imposed only after the question of its imposition has  
17           been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the  
18           proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana  
19           Election Code.

20           (3) Not less than three years after approval of the parcel fee by a majority of  
21           registered voters of the district as provided in this Subsection, the governing  
22           authority of the district may increase the amount of the parcel fee one time without  
23           an election. The amount of the increased fee shall be as provided in a duly adopted  
24           resolution of the board, not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars per parcel per year.  
25           However, the amount of the increased fee shall not exceed the maximum amount  
26           provided in Subparagraph(1)(b) of this Subsection.

27           (4) The parcel fee shall expire at the end of the term provided for in the  
28           proposition authorizing the fee, not to exceed fifteen years, but the fee may be  
29           renewed if approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on  
30           the proposition at an election as provided in Subparagraph (2)(b) of this Subsection.



1           Any election to authorize the renewal of the fee shall be held for that purpose in  
2           accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. If the fee is renewed, the term of the  
3           imposition of the fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing such  
4           renewal, not to exceed fifteen years.

5           (5) The fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad  
6           valorem taxes are collected by the sheriff, as ex officio tax collector, of the parish of  
7           East Baton Rouge. The sheriff shall collect and remit to the district all amounts  
8           collected. The district may enter into an agreement with the sheriff to authorize the  
9           sheriff to retain a collection fee not to exceed one percent of the amount collected.

10           (6) Any parcel fee which is unpaid shall be added to the tax rolls of East  
11           Baton Rouge Parish and shall be enforced with the same authority and subject to the  
12           same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

13           (7) No fee shall be imposed on any parcel owned by the East Baton Rouge  
14           Parish Housing Authority or its affiliated or subsidiary entities, including parcels  
15           subject to a ground lease by the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority.

16           G. The district is authorized to solicit and accept additional voluntary  
17           contributions and grants to further the purposes of the district.

18           H.(1) The board of commissioners shall adopt an annual budget in  
19           accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

20           (2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant  
21           to R.S. 24:513.

22           I.(1) It is the purpose and intent of this Section that the additional law  
23           enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized  
24           in this Section shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services  
25           provided in the district by the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge.

26           (2) If the district ceases to exist, any funds of the district shall be transmitted  
27           to the governing authority of the city Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge and  
28           shall be used for law enforcement purposes in the area which comprised the district.

1           J.(1) The district shall indemnify its officers and board members to the  
2           fullest extent permitted by R.S. 12:227, as fully as if the district were a nonprofit  
3           corporation governed thereby, and as may be provided in the district's bylaws.

4           (2) No board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district  
5           or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts  
6           business in the district for monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board  
7           member or officer, provided that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the  
8           liability of a board member or officer for any of the following:

9           (a) Acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional  
10          misconduct or a knowing violation of law.

11          (b) Any transaction from which he derived an improper personal benefit.

12          (3) To the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 9:2792 et seq., including R.S.  
13          9:2792.1 through 2792.9, a person serving the district as a board member or officer  
14          shall not be individually liable for any act or omission arising out of the performance  
15          of his duties.

16          Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
17          signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
18          by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
19          vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
20          effective on the day following such approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_