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 DIGEST

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SB 305 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Harris

Present law provides that the public water system, the public sewerage system, and the public drainage system of the city of New Orleans shall be constructed, controlled, maintained, and operated by a sewerage and water board to be composed as follows:

- (1) The mayor.
- (2) The chair of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council, a member of the committee appointed by the chair, or a civil engineer appointed by the chair.
- (3) Two syndicate members of the board of liquidation, city debt, to be appointed by the mayor on the recommendation of the board of liquidation, city debt.
- (4) Seven citizens, to be appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the city council from a list of nominees submitted by the Sewerage and Water Board Selection Committee.

Proposed law makes changes to the board membership by providing that one of the appointees may be the chair of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council, *or* an appointment selected by the council president with a background in engineering, law, or consumer advocacy selected with the advice and consent of the city council. Proposed law otherwise retains present law board composition.

Proposed law provides that at the beginning of every quarter, the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (authority), the La. Dept. of Transp. and Dev. (DOTD), the Gov.'s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and representatives from the Jefferson Parish Department of Public Works, the Saint Bernard Parish Department of Public Works, and the Plaquemines Parish Engineering & Public Works Department shall meet with the executive director of the Sewerage and Water Board (board) and his team to develop a coordinated southeast La. urban flood prevention plan. Proposed law requires that the plan be presented to the members of the New Orleans Delegation and the city council annually on May 15th, beginning May 15th, 2025.

Proposed law provides that the board shall be responsible for all drainage operations in the city of New Orleans. Requires the city of New Orleans to transfer all employees and equipment used for drainage maintenance to the board.

Proposed law requires the city of New Orleans to allocate on an annual basis to the board the same level of funding the New Orleans Department of Public Works utilized in fiscal year 2023 for drainage operations.

Proposed law requires the city of New Orleans, the board, and the authority to sign a cooperative endeavor agreement to assist in the coordination of the city of New Orleans award of \$141,300,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development National Disaster Resilience Grant.

Proposed law requires the board and DOTD to sign a cooperative endeavor agreement allowing the option to undertake contracting responsibilities of any special capital improvement projects over \$100,000,000. Additionally requires the board and DOTD to create and update annually a capital improvement plan and a maintenance plan to ensure the longevity of the infrastructure of the board.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:4071(A)(1)(b); Adds R.S. 33:4071.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill

1. Provides for a change in the appointment by the New Orleans City Council.
2. Provides that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness shall meet with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans executive director and his team to develop a coordinated flood prevention plan.
3. Designates the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans as the entity responsible for all drainage operations in the city of New Orleans.
4. Provide for the creation of a resiliency plan between the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the city of New Orleans, and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Technical amendments.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the reengrossed bill:

1. Add certain agencies and representatives, including other parish governments, that are required to work in conjunction with the Gov. Office of Homeland Security and DOTD in developing a flood prevention plan.
2. Requires that a meeting be held every quarter rather than every year.
3. Add requirement that the discussion of the plan include multiparish storm drainage predictions and emergency response priorities.
4. Make changes to the agencies and entities to which the plan is required to be presented.
5. Add requirement that the plan be presented on an annual basis.
6. Add requirement that the board and DOTD sign a cooperative endeavor agreement to allow contracting responsibilities for certain capital improvement projects.
7. Add requirement that the board and DOTD create and update annually a capital improvement plan and a maintenance plan regarding the infrastructure of the board.