

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 165

BY SENATOR MILLER

JUVENILES. Provides for the governance of the Juvenile Justice District and adds Lafourche Parish to the Juvenile Justice District. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:1109.11, 1109.12(A), 1109.13, 1109.16(A), and 1109.17(A) and (B), relative to the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District; to provide relative to the jurisdiction of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District; to provide relative to the addition of Lafourche Parish to the district; to provide relative to the board of commissioners of the district; to provide relative to the composition, administration and domicile of the board; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:1109.11, 1109.12(A), 1109.13, 1109.16(A), and 1109.17(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1109.11. River Parishes Juvenile Justice District; creation; jurisdiction

The River Parishes Juvenile Justice District is hereby established as a political subdivision of the state, with a territorial jurisdiction throughout the **Seventeenth**, Twenty-Third, Twenty-Ninth, and Fortieth Judicial Districts, including the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, **Lafourche**, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist.

§1109.12. Board of commissioners; appointment; terms

A. The River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission is hereby created to control, administer, and manage the affairs of the district. The commission shall be composed of a board of fourteen commissioners, who shall be qualified electors domiciled and residing in the district. ~~Five~~ **Three** commissioners shall be jointly appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriffs of the Twenty-Third Judicial District; **one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish,** ~~two commissioners~~ **one commissioner** shall be appointed, for ~~terms~~ **a term** of four years, by the sheriff of St. Charles Parish; one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. John the Baptist Parish; **one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the Seventeenth Judicial District;** one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the Twenty-Third Judicial District; one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District; one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the Fortieth Judicial District; **one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District;** one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial District; one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial District; and one commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the Fortieth Judicial District. All appointments shall be confirmed by the Senate.

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§1109.13. Purpose

The purpose of the commission shall be to assist and afford opportunities to children who enter the juvenile justice system, or who are children in need of care or supervision, to become productive, law-abiding citizens of the community, parish, and state by the establishment of rehabilitative programs within a structured

1 environment and to provide physical facilities and related services for children
2 throughout the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, **Lafourche**, St. Charles, St.
3 James, and St. John the Baptist.

4 * * *

5 §1109.16. Board; domicile; power to levy taxes, incur debt, and issue bonds

6 A. The board of commissioners shall be domiciled in the parish of ~~St. James~~
7 **Lafourche** and shall have the power to sue and be sued. In the exercise of its powers
8 to control, administer, and manage the affairs of the district, the board may incur
9 debt and issue bonds and may levy taxes in the manner provided in this Subpart and
10 pursuant to Article VI, Sections 30 and 32 of the Constitution of Louisiana or any
11 other constitutional or statutory authority. The board generally may perform any
12 function and exercise any power necessary, requisite, or proper for the administration
13 and management of the affairs of the commission and, specifically, may cooperate
14 with juvenile courts and other courts and public agencies within the **Seventeenth,**
15 Twenty-Third, Twenty-Ninth, and Fortieth Judicial Districts to aid and assist in all
16 ways authorized by law for the purposes and responsibilities for which the
17 commission is established.

18 * * *

19 §1109.17. Funding for the commission; criminal court costs

20 A. In the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, **Lafourche**, St. Charles, St.
21 James, and St. John the Baptist, in all felony and misdemeanor prosecutions,
22 including traffic offenses, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, in any
23 district, parish, city, or mayor's court, special costs in an amount not to exceed five
24 dollars shall be levied against every defendant who is convicted after trial, enters a
25 plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or forfeits bond. However, in lieu of imposing the
26 special costs, the court may direct that a like amount be deducted from any fine
27 imposed prior to disposition of the fine in accordance with other laws, but in either
28 event any amounts so collected shall be remitted, by the tenth of the month following
29 the month in which collected, by the proper officer of the court to the board of the

1 River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission to be used for the expenses of its
2 operations as provided in this Subpart.

3 B. In the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, **Lafourche**, St. Charles, St.
4 James, and St. John the Baptist, in all courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction, special
5 costs in an amount not to exceed five dollars shall be levied against every juvenile
6 who is found to have committed a traffic violation, under state law or parish or
7 municipal ordinance, and special costs in an amount not to exceed twenty-five
8 dollars shall be levied against every juvenile who is adjudicated a delinquent. All or
9 part of the costs may be suspended, but any amounts collected shall be remitted, by
10 the tenth of the month following the month in which collected, by the proper officer
11 of the court in which the matter was heard to the board of the River Parishes Juvenile
12 Justice Commission to be used for the expenses of its operations pursuant to this
13 Subpart.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 165 Original

2025 Regular Session

Miller

Present law (R.S. 15:1109) provides that the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District is hereby established as a political subdivision of the state, with a territorial jurisdiction throughout the 23rd, 29th, and 40th Judicial Districts, including the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist.

Proposed law retains present law and includes Lafourche Parish in the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District.

Present law provides that the commission shall be composed of a board of 14 commissioners.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall be composed as follows:

- (1) Five commissioners shall be jointly appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriffs of the 23rd Judicial District.
- (2) Two commissioners shall be appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriff of St. Charles Parish.
- (3) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. John the Baptist Parish.

- (4) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 23rd JDC.
- (5) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 29th JDC.
- (6) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 40th JDC.
- (7) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 23rd JDC.
- (8) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 29th JDC.
- (9) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 40th JDC.

Proposed law changes present law composition of the board of commissioners as follows:

- (1) Three commissioners shall be jointly appointed, for terms of four years, by the sheriffs of the 23rd JDC.
- (2) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish.
- (3) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. Charles Parish.
- (4) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the sheriff of St. John the Baptist Parish.
- (5) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 17th JDC.
- (6) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 23rd JDC.
- (7) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 29th JDC.
- (8) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the district attorney of the 40th JDC.
- (9) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 17th JDC.
- (10) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 23rd JDC.
- (11) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 29th JDC.
- (12) One commissioner shall be appointed, for a term of four years, by the chief judge of the 40th JDC.

Present law provides that all commissioner appointments shall be confirmed by the Senate.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the board of commissioners shall be domiciled in the parish of St. James.

Proposed law changes present law to provide that the board of commissioners shall be domiciled in Lafourche Parish.

Present law provides that the board generally may perform any function and exercise any power necessary, requisite, or proper for the administration and management of the affairs of the commission and, specifically, may cooperate with juvenile courts and other courts and public agencies within the 23rd, 29th, and 40th judicial districts to aid and assist in all ways authorized by law for the purposes and responsibilities for which the commission is established.

Proposed law retains present law and adds juvenile courts and other courts and public agencies within the 17th JDC as entities that may aid and assist the district in all ways authorized by law for the purposes and responsibilities for which the commission is established.

Present law provides that in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, in all felony and misdemeanor prosecutions, including traffic offenses, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, in any district, parish, city, or mayor's court, special costs in an amount not to exceed five dollars, shall be levied against every defendant who is convicted after trial, enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or forfeits bond.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that any district, parish, city, or mayor's court in Lafourche Parish to the parishes that may levee a fine not to exceed five dollars to every defendant who is convicted after trial, enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or forfeits bond

Present law provides that in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist, in all courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction, special costs in an amount not to exceed five dollars shall be levied against every juvenile who is found to have committed a traffic violation, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, and special costs in an amount not to exceed \$25 shall be levied against every juvenile who is adjudicated a delinquent.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that all courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction in Lafourche Parish to the parishes that may levee against every juvenile who is found to have committed a traffic violation, under state law or parish or municipal ordinance, and special costs in an amount not to exceed \$25 against every juvenile who is adjudicated a delinquent.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 15:1109.11, 1109.12(A), 1109.13, 1109.16(A), and 1109.17(A) and (B))