

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

**SB 195****2025 Regular Session****Harris**

June 11, 2025

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 195 by Senator Harris, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the House Committee Amendment No. 1 proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 8, 2025 be adopted.
2. That the House Committee Amendments No. 2 proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 8, 2025 be rejected.
3. That the following amendments to the engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 3, after "25:799(K)(4) relative" insert "to historic districts in the parish of Orleans; to provide relative"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 4, after "commissioners;" insert "to designate certain property located on Gentilly Boulevard as a Louisiana Historic Site;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, after line 1, insert the following:

"Section 2. The property located at municipal address 1751 Gentilly Boulevard in Orleans Parish, state of Louisiana, and all associated land, and its structures, streets, racing surfaces, and infrastructure comprising the New Orleans Fair Grounds which is the third oldest Thoroughbred Race Track in the United States of America, founded in 1852 shall be designated a state of Louisiana Historic Site, whereupon no demolition, structural alteration, sale or cessation of racing operations, nor any impediments be placed on the property to interfere with racing and training operations, shall occur without express legislative approval and review by the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Facility improvements, however, may be made subject to approval, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

The state of Louisiana, through this legislative Act, recognizes the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the Fair Grounds Race Course to the city of New Orleans, the state's equine heritage, and the lives of generations of Louisiana citizens. The Fair Grounds has operated through war, flood, and economic upheaval, and remains a living institution of both regional pride and national distinction. It has served not only as a center of racing, but also as a venue for music, community gathering, and civic engagement, most notably as the long-standing home of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

The New Orleans Fair Grounds is hereby designated as a protected historic site in the state of Louisiana and shall be immediately placed and enrolled on the

historic site registry maintained by the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism and any applicable preservation registries of the city of New Orleans."

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

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Senator Jimmy Harris

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Representative Alonzo L. Knox

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Senator Joseph Bouie Jr.

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Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry

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Senator Patrick Connick

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Representative Matthew Willard

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST****SB 195****2025 Regular Session****Harris****Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

SPECIAL DISTRICT. Provides for the French Quarter Management District. (8/1/25)

**Report adopts House amendments to:**

1. Clarifies that the French Quarter Management District may procure its own emergency contract to ensure continuation of services within its boundaries, when the city of New Orleans, due to a lack of city-employed staff or a lawfully contracted vendor cannot provide sanitation services at a level reasonably commensurate with historic practices within the French Quarter.

**Report rejects House amendments which would have:**

1. Authorize the costs for emergency sanitation services procured by the French Quarter Management District to ensure continuation of services within its boundaries to be reimbursed by the city of New Orleans pursuant to an intergovernmental transfer of funds, provided that the reimbursement is authorized and allocated by a budget ordinance adopted by the governing authority of Orleans Parish.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Clarify that the reimbursement costs to the French Quarter Management District through intergovernmental transfer of fund is authorized and allocated by a budget ordinance adopted by the governing authority of the parish of Orleans.
2. Designate the New Orleans Fair Grounds as a protected historic site in the state of Louisiana.
3. Require the New Orleans Fair Grounds to be placed and enrolled on the historic site registry maintained by the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism and applicable preservation registries on the city of New Orleans.
4. Require no demolition, structural alteration, sale or cessation of racing operations, nor any impediments shall be placed on the property to interfere with racing and training operations without express legislative approval and review by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.
5. Require that facility improvements may be made subject to approval, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the La. State Racing Commission.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

Present law (R.S. 25:799) provides for the creation of the French Quarter Management District ("FQMD").

Proposed law retains present law and provides that when the city of New Orleans, due to a lack of city-employed staff or a lawfully contracted vendor, cannot provide sanitation services within the French Quarter at a level reasonably commensurate with historic practices, the district may procure its own emergency contract to ensure continuation of services within its boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the costs for emergency sanitation services procured pursuant to proposed law shall be reimbursed by the city of New Orleans.

Proposed law provides that the authorize the costs for emergency sanitation services procured by the FQMD to ensure continuation of services within its boundaries to be reimbursed by the city of New Orleans pursuant to an intergovernmental transfer of funds, provided that the reimbursement is authorized and allocated by a budget ordinance adopted by the governing authority of the parish of Orleans.

Proposed law provides that the emergency contract procured by the district shall continue until such time as the city resumes service through its own employees or pursuant to a lawfully procured and executed contract.

Proposed law provides that the New Orleans Fair Grounds shall be designated as a state of La. historic site. Requires the New Orleans Fair Grounds to be immediately placed and enrolled on the historic site registry maintained by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism and any applicable preservation registries of the city of New Orleans.

Proposed law provides that no demolition, structural alteration, sale or cessation of racing operations, nor any impediments shall be placed on the property to interfere with racing and training operations without express legislative approval and review by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.

Proposed law provides that facility improvements may be made subject to approval, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the La. State Racing Commission.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 25:799(C)(1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (j), (k), and (l); adds R.S. 25:799(K)(4))