

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 649

2025 Regular Session

Ventrella

June 12, 2025

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 649 by Representative Ventrella, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs (#2852) be rejected.
2. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Miller (#2959) be rejected.
3. That Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 by Senator Reese (#3087) be rejected.
4. That the following amendments to the Engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "reenact" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 3 in its entirety and on line 4, delete "facilities within the parish;" and insert "R.S. 33:4570.1 and R.S. 48:1456(A) and to enact R.S. 33:4570.3(D), relative to East Baton Rouge Parish;"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 5, after "Rouge;" delete the remainder of the line and delete lines 6 through 10 in their entirety and insert "to provide relative to the membership and powers and duties of the commission; to require the commission to submit an annual report regarding the funds of the commission; to provide relative to the board of commissioners of the Capital Area Transit System; to provide"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 16, after "Section 1." delete the remainder of the line and delete line 17 in its entirety and insert "R.S. 33:4570.1 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 33:4570.3(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

Delete pages 2 through 8 in their entirety and insert the following:

"§4570.1. Board of commissioners; officers; quorum; employees

A. The commission shall be composed of ~~three~~ five ex officio members and ~~six~~ four appointed members for a total of nine commissioners. The ex officio members shall be the ~~mayor-president, or an officer or employee of the city or parish designated by the mayor-president from time to time; a member of the school board of East Baton Rouge Parish, designated by the school board for a term coincident with his term on the school board; and a member of the planning commission designated by the planning commission for a term coincident with his term on the planning commission.~~ mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, St. George, and Zachary. Each mayor may designate a person to serve in his place as a member of the commission. Each designee shall serve at the pleasure of

the designating mayor. The ex officio members shall serve during their terms of office. The ~~six~~ four appointed members shall be qualified voters of the parish appointed by the ~~metropolitan council~~ governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge for terms of three years. Of the four appointed members, at least two shall be residents of the city of Baton Rouge, and at least one shall be a resident of the unincorporated area of East Baton Rouge Parish. Following the release of each federal decennial census, the commission may, by majority vote, reallocate these designated residency requirements to reflect the changes in population distribution across the parish. Any such reallocation shall apply prospectively and shall not alter the term of any sitting member. Vacancies shall be filled by the designating or appointing body for the unexpired portion of the term authority. All commission members shall serve without compensation.

B. The commission shall elect from ~~the six appointed~~ its members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a treasurer whose terms of office shall be one year. ~~Four~~ Five members shall constitute a quorum of the commission for all purposes. The commission shall have the power and authority to name and employ a person who shall be designated as superintendent of the commission, who shall not be a member of the commission, and who shall be ex officio secretary of the commission, and to prescribe and pay an annual salary to the superintendent.

* * *

§4570.3. Powers and duties

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D.(1) The commission shall submit a written report annually to each municipality located within the jurisdiction of the commission and to the members of the Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives who represent each municipality located within the jurisdiction of the commission.

(2) The report shall provide the amount of funds received from taxpayers in each municipality, the amount of funds spent by the commission on facilities in each municipality, and the amount of money generated at commission facilities in each municipality.

(3) The report shall be submitted annually within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year.

(4) The commission shall timely submit all reports required by the legislative auditor.

Section 2. R.S. 48:1456(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read follows:

§1456. Board of commissioners

A.(1) If there are no participating parishes other than East Baton Rouge Parish, the system shall be governed by a board of commissioners comprised of ~~nine~~ ten members, with one member being a representative of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

(2) The member from the Amalgamated Transit Union shall be the president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1546 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or his designee. The union representative shall be a retired union member and serve as a member of the board without voting privileges. The union representative shall not participate in any executive session involving personnel issues or collective bargaining agreements.

* * *

Section 3. The terms of the members of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge in office on the effective date of this Act shall terminate on that date; however, the members shall remain in office until the commission members take office as provided in this Act. The members of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge shall take office as provided in this Act and shall serve terms of office as provided in this Act.

Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry

Senator Rick Edmonds

Representative Lauren Ventrella

Senator Franklin J. Foil

Representative Paula P. Davis

Senator Mike Reese

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 649

2025 Regular Session

Ventrella

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

DISTRICTS/RECREATION: Provides relative to parks and recreation districts in East Baton Rouge Parish

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Remove provisions that create the Central Recreation District.
2. Remove provisions that exclude certain property from the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.
3. Change the membership of the commission.
4. Authorize each ex-officio mayor to designate a person to serve in his place on the commission.
5. Add voter and residency requirements for the appointed commissioners.
6. Authorize the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge to reallocate residency requirements under certain circumstances.
7. Provide for the expiration of the terms of current commission members.
8. Increase the quorum requirement for the commission from four to five members.
9. Require the commission to submit a written report annually to certain persons and public bodies regarding the funds of the commission.
10. Increase the membership of the Capital Area Transit System from nine to 10 by adding the president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1546 in Baton Rouge, La., or his designee.
11. Require that the union representative serving on the board be a retired union member.
12. Prohibit the union representative serving on the board from voting and participating in any executive session involving personnel issues.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Change the requirements of the annual report submitted by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law creates the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge as a subdivision of the state to plan, own, and operate public recreational and park facilities in the parish. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the commission is comprised of nine members, six of whom are appointed by the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge and three of whom are ex officio members. The three ex officio members are the mayor-president or his designee, a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish school board designated by the school board, and a member of the planning commission designated by the planning commission. Provides that four members constitute a quorum.

Proposed law changes the membership of the commission to provide for five ex officio members and four members appointed by the governing authority of city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge for three-year terms. Provides that the five ex officio members shall be mayors of the following municipalities: Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, St. George, and Zachary. Requires that at least two of the appointed members be residents of the city of Baton Rouge, and at least one be a resident of an unincorporated area of East Baton Rouge Parish. Authorizes the commission, following the release of each federal decennial census, by majority vote, to reallocate these designated residency requirements to reflect changes in population distribution across the parish. Provides that the reallocation shall apply prospectively and shall not alter the term of any sitting member. Provides that five members constitute a quorum.

Proposed law provides that terms of the members of the commission in office on the effective date of proposed law shall terminate on that date; however, the members shall remain in office until the members take office pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law requires the commission to submit a written report annually to each municipality located within the jurisdiction of the commission and to the members of the La. Senate and House of Representative who represent each municipality located within the jurisdiction of the commission. Requires that the report provide the amount of funds received from taxpayers in each municipality, the amount of funds spent by the commission on facilities in each municipality, and the amount of money generated at commission facilities in each municipality. Requires that the report be submitted annually within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year. Further requires the commission to timely submit all reports required by the legislative auditor.

Present law provides for the composition of the board of commissioners of the Capital Area Transit System which is comprised of nine members if there are no participating parishes other than East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law modifies present law by increasing the membership from nine to 10. Provides that the additional member shall be the president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1546 in Baton Rouge, La., or his designee. Further provides that the union representative shall be a retired union member and shall serve as a board member without voting privileges. Prohibits the union representative from participating in any executive sessions involving personnel issues.

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

(Amends R.S. 33:4570.1 and R.S. 48:1456(A); Adds R.S. 33:4570.3(D))