

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 56

BY SENATOR CONNICK

LEVEES. Provides for the reorganization of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank and the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 38:291(Y), 330.1(A)(1), (B)(2)(a), the introductory paragraph
3 of 330.1(C)(1)(b), 330.1(C)(1)(b)(iii), (C)(2)(b), and (L)(2)(a), 330.3(A), (B)(1) and
4 (C)(1), and 330.10, relative to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-
5 West Bank and Lafitte Area Independent Levee District; to provide for renaming the
6 Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank and Lafitte Area
7 Independent Levee District; to provide for the board of commissioners for the
8 Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank and Lafitte Area
9 Independent Levee District; to provide for legal proceedings; to direct the Louisiana
10 State Law Institute to change statutory references as necessary; and to provide for
11 related matters.

12 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

17 §291. Naming: limits of districts: composition of boards

1 * * *

Y. Lafitte Area ~~Independent~~ Levee District. (1)(a) The West Jefferson Levee District as it existed on January 1, 2011, is reorganized as provided by this Paragraph and as provided by Paragraph (R)(1) of this Section. The Lafitte Area ~~Independent~~ Levee District as it existed on January 1, 2011, is reorganized as provided by this Paragraph and as provided by this Subsection shall be comprised of all of the lands in the parish of Jefferson, lying north of Latitude 29° 17' 52" N and lying south of 29° 47' 00" N.

(2) The governor shall appoint, subject to Senate confirmation, a board of commissioners consisting of five persons who reside in that portion of Jefferson Parish located within the levee district and who meet the requirements of R.S. 38:304(A) as follows:

(a) One member shall be appointed from a list containing three nominations from the governing authority of Jean Lafitte.

(2)(a) On and after August 1, 2026, the district shall be governed by the board of commissioners of the West Bank Levee Authority pursuant to authority granted by Article VI, Sections 38 and 38.1 of the Constitution of Louisiana and as provided in this Chapter.

(b) Four members shall be appointed at-large from a list of six nominations submitted jointly by the legislative delegation representing that portion of Jefferson Parish located within the levee district.

(c) Members shall be nominated and appointed such that there are always at least two professionals with at least ten years of experience in their respective professional disciplines on the board, one of whom shall be an engineer.

(3) A vacancy created whether by reason of death, resignation, expiration of term, or any other cause of a member of the board shall be filled in the same manner as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

(4)(a) The members of the board initially appointed shall at their first meeting determine by lot their terms of office, which terms shall commence immediately upon their appointment and shall expire, respectively, as follows: one member in two years, two members in three years, and two members in four years, from the first day of July immediately succeeding such appointment. Thereafter all terms shall be four years.

(b) No member shall serve more than four consecutive four-year terms. However, if a person has been appointed to fill more than one-half of an unexpired term, such person shall be eligible to serve consecutively no more than three terms in addition to such partial term.

(5) The official domicile of the board of the district shall be established by the board.

(6) The district shall have such taxing authority as authorized by Article VI, Section 39(A) and (B) of the Constitution of Louisiana and other applicable provisions of law.

(7) Any books, records, documents, movable property, lands, or immovable property owned by the West Jefferson Levee District situated within the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District, that are owned by or in the possession of the West Jefferson Levee District and that are situated in or pertain to the operations in the jurisdiction of the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District shall, on June 29, 2011, become property of and shall be transferred to the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District without the necessity of any other act, instrument, or deed.

* * *

§330.1. Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and ~~Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank~~ **West Bank Levee Authority**; territorial jurisdiction; board of commissioners; appointments; terms; compensation; vacancy; officers; meetings; domicile

A.(1) The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and

~~Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank~~ **West Bank Levee Authority**, referred to herein as "flood protection authority" or "authority", are established as levee districts pursuant to Article VI, Sections 38 and 38.1 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

B. Each flood protection authority, through its board of commissioners as provided for in this Section, shall exercise all authority over and have management, oversight, and control of the following territories as provided by law for the boards of commissioners of such levee districts to which the authority is a successor and to the extent provided for in this Part:

* * *

(2)(a) The following levee districts and parts of levee districts and parishes shall be included within the ~~Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West~~ **Bank West Bank Levee Authority**:

(i) West Jefferson Levee District.

(ii) The Algiers Levee District.

(iii) The Lafitte Area Levee District.

* * *

C.(1) There is hereby created a board of commissioners for each flood protection authority as follows:

* * *

(b) The board of commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank **West Bank Levee Authority** shall be composed of ~~seven~~ nine members of whom ~~two~~ three shall reside in Jefferson Parish on the west side of the Mississippi River within the jurisdiction of the authority, **one shall reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the Lafitte Area Levee District**, two shall reside in Orleans Parish on the west side of the Mississippi River, and three shall reside outside of Jefferson and Orleans parishes. The members shall be appointed by the governor from nominations submitted by the nominating committee as follows:

* * *

(iii) One member Three members who shall possess the qualifications set forth in either Item (i) or (ii) of this Subparagraph.

(2) * * *

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph for the purpose of nominating persons to serve on the ~~Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank~~ **West Bank Levee Authority**, the committee shall also include, a member or designee of the West Bank Business and Industry Association and a faculty member or designee of Our Lady of Holy Cross College.

* * *

L. * * *

(2)(a) In lieu of the compensation provided in R.S. 38:308, the members of the board of commissioners of the ~~Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority~~ ~~West Bank~~ **West Bank Levee Authority** shall receive a per diem equal to the rate allowable for per diem deduction under 26 U.S.C. 162(h)(1)(B)(ii) for its official domicile for each day such member is in actual attendance at a meeting of the board or one of its committees or performing duties authorized by the board. If the president of the board also acts as its administrator, he may receive a salary not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars per month in lieu of the per diem.

* * *

§330.3. Levee district and board reorganization; transfer of authority; obligations; taxes; lands

A.(1)(a) Any legal proceeding to which the East Jefferson Levee District, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Orleans Levee District, or West Jefferson Levee District is a party and which is filed, initiated, or pending before any court on January 1, 2007, and all documents involved in or affected by said legal proceeding, shall retain its effectiveness and shall be continued in the name of the district. ~~Other than the district or districts originally named as party to the proceedings, neither an authority or district within the territorial jurisdiction of the authority shall have any liability for actions pending or claims arising prior to the effective date of this~~

1 Section:

2 (b) Any legal proceeding to which the Lafitte Area Levee District is a
3 party and which is filed, initiated or pending before any court on August 1,
4 2026, and all documents involved in or affected by any legal proceeding, shall
5 retain its effectiveness and shall be continued in the name of the Lafitte Area
6 Levee District.

7 (c) Other than the district or districts originally named as a party to the
8 proceedings, neither an authority or district within the territorial jurisdiction
9 of the authority shall have any liability for actions pending or claims arising
10 prior to August 1, 2026.

11 (b)(d) Neither an authority nor any district within the territorial jurisdiction
12 of the authority shall have any liability for actions or claims other than the district
13 against which the actions or claims arise.

14 (e)(e) Except as provided in this Subparagraph, Paragraph (B)(4) of this
15 Section, and R.S. 38:330.8(B), no provision of law providing the Southeast
16 Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East or Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection
17 Authority-West Bank-West Bank Levee Authority with any authority over and
18 management, oversight, and control of the areas and levee districts provided for in
19 R.S. 38:330.2(A) shall be construed or interpreted to make the taxes levied by, or
20 other revenue of, a levee district within the territorial jurisdiction of the authority
21 payable for the liability of another levee district, or for any liability of the authority
22 when acting on behalf of another levee district. Notwithstanding any other provision
23 of law to the contrary, taxes and other revenues generated in one or more levee
24 districts within the jurisdiction of a levee authority may be used within any portion
25 of the territorial jurisdiction of the authority if use of the funds will benefit all or a
26 portion of the authority and the levee districts from which the taxes or revenues are
27 generated.

28 (2) All obligations and unfinished business of the East Jefferson Levee
29 District, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Orleans Levee District, and West

1 Jefferson Levee District, **and Lafitte Area Levee District**, shall be managed on
2 behalf of the districts by the appropriate authority.

3 (3) All outstanding indebtedness of the East Jefferson Levee District, Lake
4 Borgne Basin Levee District, Orleans Levee District, **and** West Jefferson Levee
5 District, **and Lafitte Area Levee District** shall remain with the district and shall not
6 be a liability of any authority.

7 B.(1) The proceeds of all taxes collected on all property taxed in the parishes
8 of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard for the purpose of constructing and
9 maintaining levees, levee drainage, flood protection, hurricane flood protection, and
10 for all other purposes incidental thereto, by or on behalf of the Algiers Levee
11 District, East Jefferson Levee District, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Orleans
12 Levee District, **or** West Jefferson Levee District, **or Lafitte Area Levee District**,
13 and, except as provided in R.S. 38:330.12, any other revenue from operations of such
14 districts shall be administered by the board of commissioners of the applicable flood
15 protection authority; however, the taxes and other revenues of each such levee
16 district shall only be used and expended for the purposes of such district.

17 * * *

18 C.(1) Any books, records, documents, funds, movable property, lands or
19 immovable property owned by the Algiers Levee District, East Jefferson Levee
20 District, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Orleans Levee District, **and** West
21 Jefferson Levee District, **and Lafitte Area Levee District** shall be retained as
22 property of the respective levee district in which such property is situated, but shall
23 be managed by the applicable flood protection authority, except as provided in R.S.
24 38:330.12.

25 * * *

26 §330.10. Statutory reference

27 A. Subject to the limitations of liability as set forth in R.S. 38:330.3,
28 whenever a reference to the "board of commissioners", "levee board" or "board of
29 levee commissioners" of the Algiers Levee District, East Jefferson Levee District,

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Orleans Levee District, or West Jefferson Levee District, or Lafitte Area Levee District appears in any statute, or in a contract, or a legal pleading, or in any other document, that reference shall be deemed to be a reference to the board of commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East or the board of commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank West Bank Levee Authority, as applicable.

B. Subject to the limitations of liability as set forth in R.S. 38:330.3, whenever a reference to the "board of commissioners," "levee board" or "board of levee commissioners" or "levee district" appears in any statute, that reference shall be deemed to include the board of commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West **Bank West Bank Levee Authority**.

Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to make technical changes to statutory laws as necessary to reflect the succession of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank by the West Bank Levee Authority as provided in this Act.

Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to make technical changes to statutory laws as necessary to reflect the succession of the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District by the Lafitte Area Levee District as provided in this Act.

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 56 Original 2026 Regular Session Connick

Present law provides for governance and appointments of the commissioners of the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District including Senate confirmation of commissioners and requirements for commissioners. Proposed law provides the Lafitte Area Levee District will be governed by the board of commissioners of the West Bank Levee Authority and for four members to be appointed from a list of six nominations submitted by the legislative delegation representing the portion of Jefferson Parish the levee district is located in.

Present law provides for the composition of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank. Proposed law retains present law and changes the name of the Authority from Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank to the West Bank Levee Authority. Proposed law provides for changes to the number of members of the Authority from seven to nine, with one residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the Lafitte Area Levee District.

Present law provides for one member to be an engineer or a professional in a related field including geotechnical, hydrological, environmental or hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning with at least 10 years experience in the given area. Proposed law retains present law and provides for three members to possess the qualifications.

Proposed law provides for legal proceedings taking place after the effective date of the law will be continued in the new name of the entities.

Present law further provides for carrying out the organizational duties of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Authority-West Bank. Proposed law provides for carrying out the organizational duties of the West Bank Levee Authority and includes obligations and business of the Lafitte Area Levee District.

Proposed law directs the Law Institute to change statutory references as necessary.

Proposed law provides for technical matters.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 38:291(Y) and 330.1(A)(1), (B)(2)(a), 330.1(C)(1)(b)(intro para), 330.1(C)(1)(b)(iii), (C)(2)(b), and (L)(2)(a), 330.3(A), (B)(1) and (C)(1), and 330.10)