

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 433

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Provides relative to the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2740.8(D)(1)(b), 2740.19(D)(1)(e), 2740.53(B)(1)(b),  
3 2740.67.1(C)(1)(f), 4720.151(G)(1)(b), R.S. 38:3051, and R.S. 39:1482(4), relative  
4 to East Baton Rouge Parish; to provide relative to the Downtown Development  
5 District of the city of Baton Rouge, the Baton Rouge Inner City Economic  
6 Development District, the Florida Boulevard Economic Development District, the  
7 Plank Road Business Economic Development District, the East Baton Rouge  
8 Redevelopment Authority, and the Greater Baton Rouge Water Conservation  
9 District; to provide relative to nominations or appointments made to such entities by  
10 the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce; to provide relative to the Louisiana  
11 Competes Regional Economic Development Program; to provide relative to  
12 definitions for the program; to change the name of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber  
13 of Commerce; and to provide for related matters.

14 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
15 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
16 Louisiana.

17 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

18 Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.8(D)(1)(b), 2740.19(D)(1)(e), 2740.53(B)(1)(b),  
19 2740.67.1(C)(1)(f), and 4720.151(G)(1)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
20 follows:

1           §2740.8. The downtown development district of the city of Baton Rouge; creation,  
2                           composition and powers; preparation of plans, levy of special ad valorem  
3                           taxes, and issuance of bonds and other instruments of indebtedness

4   \*       \*       \*

5           D.(1) The board shall be composed of seven members, all of whom shall be  
6           qualified voters of the parish of East Baton Rouge, and shall have their principal  
7           place of business or profession in, or own property in, the Downtown Development  
8           District. The seven members shall be appointed as follows:

9   \*       \*       \*

10           (b) One member of the board shall be appointed by the mayor-president,  
11           with the approval of the metro council, from a list of four nominees submitted by the  
12           ~~Greater Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce~~ Greater Baton Rouge Economic  
13           Partnership.

14   \*       \*       \*

15           §2740.19. Baton Rouge Inner City Economic Development District; creation,  
16                           composition and powers

17   \*       \*       \*

18           D.(1) The board shall be composed of fifteen members, all of whom shall be  
19           qualified voters of the parish of East Baton Rouge. The members shall be appointed  
20           as follows:

21   \*       \*       \*

22           (e) One member shall be appointed by the president of the ~~Baton Rouge~~  
23           ~~Chamber of Commerce~~ Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

24   \*       \*       \*

25           §2740.53. Florida Boulevard Economic Development District

26   \*       \*       \*

27           B. Governance. (1) The district shall be governed by an eleven-member  
28           board of commissioners. The members shall be appointed as follows:

29   \*       \*       \*

1 (b) One member of the board shall be appointed by the mayor-president,  
2 with the approval of the metropolitan council, from a list of four nominees submitted  
3 by the ~~Greater Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce~~ Greater Baton Rouge  
4 Economic Partnership.

5 \* \* \*

6 §2740.67.1. Plank Road Business Economic Development District

7 \* \* \*

8 C. Governance. (1) In order to provide for the orderly planning,  
9 development, acquisition, construction, and effectuation of the services,  
10 improvements, and facilities to be furnished by the district and to provide for the  
11 representation in the affairs of the district of those persons and interests immediately  
12 concerned with and affected by the purposes and development of the district, the  
13 district shall be managed by a seven-member board of commissioners, referred to in  
14 this Section as the "board". The board shall be comprised of members as follows:

15 \* \* \*

16 (f) One member shall be appointed by the governing board of the ~~Baton~~  
17 ~~Rouge Area Chamber~~ Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

18 \* \* \*

19 §4720.151. East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority

20 \* \* \*

21 G.(1) The authority shall be governed by a board of commissioners, referred  
22 to in this Chapter as the "board", consisting of five members appointed as follows:

23 \* \* \*

24 (b) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of the ~~Baton~~  
25 ~~Rouge Area Chamber~~ Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

26 \* \* \*

27 Section 2. R.S. 38:3051 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

1 §3051. District authorized; creating resolution; membership

2 A.(1) The governing authority of the parish of East Baton Rouge is hereby  
3 empowered to create a special conservation district within said parish to be known  
4 as "Greater Baton Rouge Water Conservation District" hereinafter sometimes called  
5 "district" by the adoption of a creating resolution. Before adoption of creating  
6 resolution a notice of intention to create district shall be published three times in the  
7 official journal of the parish not less than fifteen days prior to the date set for the  
8 holding of a public hearing thereon. Creating resolution shall provide that governing  
9 authority of district shall consist of sixteen members subject to the provisions of R.S.  
10 38:3054 hereof and shall be designated and known as "Water Conservation  
11 Commission" or "Commission". In the creating resolution the governing authority  
12 of the parish of East Baton Rouge shall appoint sixteen persons to serve on the Water  
13 Conservation Commission as follows:

14 (a) One representative selected by the ~~Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce~~  
15 Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

16 (b) Two representatives selected by the Baton Rouge Water Works  
17 Company.

18 (c) One representative selected by Ethyl Corporation.

19 (d) One representative selected by Gulf States Utilities Company.

20 (e) One representative selected by Humble Oil & Refining Company.

21 (f) One representative selected by the Louisiana Conservation Department.

22 (g) One representative selected by the Louisiana Department of Public  
23 Works.

24 (h) One representative selected by the Louisiana State Health Department.

25 (i) One independent geologist selected by the parish council.

26 (j) Two city-parish council members selected by the parish council.

27 (k) One East Baton Rouge Parish senator and one state representative  
28 selected by the parish council.

29 (l) One representative selected by the AFL-CIO.



Provides that the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce makes nominations or appointments to the governing boards of the districts.

Proposed law changes the name of the chamber to the Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

Present law creates the Louisiana Competes Regional Economic Development Program to be administered by Louisiana Economic Development, to provide grants to regional economic development organizations. Provides that the definition of "regional economic development organization" includes the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, or its successor.

Proposed law changes the name of the chamber to the Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership.

(Amends 33:2740.8(D)(1)(b), 2740.19(D)(1)(e), 2740.53(B)(1)(b), 2740.67.1(C)(1)(f), 4720.151(G)(1)(b), R.S. 38:3051, and R.S. 39:1482(4))