

**ACT No. 398**

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 247

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARRIER

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 33:2740.70.11 and to repeal R.S. 33:4574(B)(3), 4574.1.1(A)(3), and 4574.14, relative to Allen Parish; to create the Allen Parish Economic Development District; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose, governance, and powers and duties of the district; to provide for district funding; to provide relative to the Allen Parish Tourist Commission; to provide relative to the governing board of the commission; to provide relative to the compensation of board members; to provide relative to taxes levied by the commission; to repeal provisions that provide for the creation of the commission; to abolish the commission; to provide relative to the funds and property of the commission; and to provide for related matters.

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.70.11 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2740.70.11. Allen Parish Economic Development District

A. There is hereby created within the parish of Allen, as more specifically provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate which shall be known as the Allen Parish Economic Development District, referred to in this Section as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

B. The boundaries of the district shall encompass all of the territorial jurisdiction of the parish of Allen.

1           C. The district is created to provide for cooperative economic and  
2           community development among the district, the parish, the state, and the owners of  
3           property in the district; to provide for tourism-related initiatives; to enhance the  
4           development of and improvement to the property within the area of the district; to  
5           develop stable and more extensive employment opportunities; to improve  
6           infrastructure; and to promote the overall welfare of the citizens of the district.

7           D.(1) In order to provide for the orderly development of the district and  
8           effect the purposes of the district, the district shall be administered and governed by  
9           a board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board", composed of  
10          five members as follows:

11                   (a) The president of the Allen Parish Industrial Development Board.

12                   (b) The president of the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce.

13                   (c) The president of the Kinder Chamber of Commerce.

14                   (d) The president of the governing authority of the parish of Allen.

15                   (e) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district  
16          encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district, or his designee.

17                   (2) The members of the board shall serve during their terms of office. Any  
18          designee shall serve at the pleasure of the designating authority.

19                   (3) The board shall elect from its members a president, a vice president, a  
20          secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. The duties  
21          of the officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

22                   (4) The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the  
23          secretary of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the  
24          official custody of the board.

25                   (5) The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary  
26          or advisable for conducting its business affairs. It shall hold regular meetings as  
27          shall be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special meetings at such times and  
28          places within the district as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

1           (6) A majority of the voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum  
2           for the transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and  
3           shall make them available through the secretary of the board to residents of the  
4           district.

5           (7) The members of the board shall serve without compensation; however,  
6           they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending to the business of the  
7           board or the district.

8           E.(1) The district, acting by and through its board, shall have and exercise  
9           all powers of a political subdivision necessary or convenient for carrying out its  
10          objects and purposes, including but not limited to the following:

11           (a) To sue and to be sued.

12           (b) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

13           (c) To adopt bylaws and rules and regulations.

14           (d) To receive by gift, grant, or donation any sum of money, property, aid,  
15          or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any political  
16          subdivision thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation.

17           (e) To enter into contracts, agreements, or cooperative endeavors with the  
18          state and its political subdivisions or political corporations and with any public or  
19          private association, corporation, business entity, or individual.

20           (f) To appoint officers, agents, and employees; prescribe their duties; and  
21          fix their compensation.

22           (g) To acquire by purchase, gift, grant, donation, or lease property as may  
23          be necessary or desirable for carrying out the objectives and purposes of the board.

24           (h) To perform any other necessary and ancillary acts to effectuate its  
25          functions, to perform its duties, or to give effect to its powers in accordance with this  
26          Section.

27           (2) The board shall not exercise any power, except the power to levy a  
28          occupancy tax as authorized in this Section, without the approval of the governing  
29          authority of the parish of Allen.

1           F.(1) The district may levy and collect a tax upon the paid occupancy of  
2           hotel rooms and overnight camping facilities located within the district. The  
3           occupancy tax shall not exceed three percent of the rent or fee charged for such  
4           occupancy.

5           (2)(a) The term "hotel" as used in this Section shall have the same definition  
6           as that contained in R.S. 47:301(6).

7           (b) The term "overnight camping facility" as used in this Section shall mean  
8           any commercial establishment providing space and utilities in order to accommodate  
9           recreational vehicles on a temporary, overnight basis.

10           (3) The person who exercises or is entitled to occupancy of the hotel room  
11           or overnight camping facility shall pay the occupancy tax at the time the rent or fee  
12           for occupancy is paid. "Person" as used in this Paragraph shall have the same  
13           definition as that contained in R.S. 47:301(8).

14           (4) The occupancy tax shall be in addition to all taxes levied upon the  
15           occupancy of hotel rooms and overnight camping facilities located within the city.

16           (5) The district may enter into a contract with any public entity authorized  
17           to collect sales or use taxes, under terms and conditions it considers appropriate,  
18           including payment of a reasonable collection fee for the collection of the occupancy  
19           tax authorized in this Subsection.

20           (6) Any monies received by the district shall be used exclusively for the  
21           benefit of the district.

22           G.(1) The board shall prepare or cause to be prepared a plan or plans  
23           specifying the public improvements, facilities, and services proposed to be furnished,  
24           constructed, or acquired for the district and shall conduct public hearings, publish  
25           notice with respect thereto, and disseminate information as it, in the exercise of its  
26           sound discretion, deems appropriate or advisable and in the public interest.

27           (2) Any plan may specify and encompass any public services, capital  
28           improvements, and facilities which the parish of Allen is authorized to undertake,  
29           furnish, or provide under the constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, and the  
30           specified public services, improvements, and facilities shall be special and in

1           addition to all services, improvements, and facilities which the parish is then  
2           furnishing or providing or may then or in the future be obligated to furnish or  
3           provide within the district.

4                   (3) Any plan shall include an estimate of the annual and total cost of  
5           acquiring, constructing, or providing the services, improvements, or facilities set  
6           forth therein.

7                   H.(1) The board shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with the  
8           Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

9                   (2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant  
10          to R.S. 24:513.

11                   I. All state officers and agencies are authorized at their discretion to render  
12          such services to the district within their respective functions as may be requested by  
13          the district. In addition, the district and such agencies are authorized to enter into  
14          such contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, or other agreements necessary or  
15          convenient to carry out the purposes of this Section.

16           Section 2. R.S. 33:4574(B)(3), 4574.1.1(A)(3), and 4574.14 are hereby repealed in  
17          their entirety.

18           Section 3. All remaining funds and property of the Allen Parish Tourist Commission  
19          shall be transferred to the Allen Parish Economic Development District. The funds shall be  
20          held in a separate account and shall be used for the purpose of attracting conventions and  
21          tourists into the area and former jurisdiction of the commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_