
DIGEST

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Dixon

HB No. 774

Abstract: Provides relative to the territorial boundaries, governance, powers, duties, vacancies, meetings, land acquisition, expropriation of property, rights and powers of Rapides Parish governing authority within the territorial boundaries of the port.

Present law creates the Alexandria Port Authority and provides for an eight-member board to serve without compensation, five members appointed by the mayor of Alexandria. Provides that three members shall be the appointees to the Red River Waterway Commission representing the parishes of Rapides, Grant, and Avoyelles.

Present law established the authority as coterminous with the city of Alexandria.

Present law requires election of officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer from among its members. Allows the board to combine the offices of secretary and treasurer.

Provides the president shall have no vote except in the event of a tie vote. Requires the board to meet regularly once monthly and in special meeting at the call of the president or on written request of five members.

Provides a majority of the members constitute a quorum. Further requires all actions and resolutions be approved by an affirmative vote of at least a majority of those attending the meeting.

Provides that the board prescribe its rules of governing its meetings and requires the board to fix a meeting place.

Present law authorizes the board to regulate commerce and traffic within the area and allow for the construction of wharves, locks, canals, warehouses, elevators, docks, sheds, and other buildings necessary to conduct the business of the port.

Present law provides for contracting and leasing authority within political subdivisions including the city of Alexandria, for the management and operation of port and ancillary facilities, including an industrial park associated with the port.

Present law authorizes the levy and collection of taxes by vote of the people not to exceed 10 mills.

Present law requires the tax collector to collect and remit taxes on a monthly basis to the board and authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds not to exceed 10 million dollars and the issuance of general obligation bonds with voter approval.

Present law requires advertisement of the sale of the bonds in the parish where the parish is domiciled and in either New Orleans, LA, or New York, N.Y.

Present law exempts the port from compliance with the provisions of R.S. 43:111, relative to advertising.

Proposed law changes the territorial limits of the port being concurrent with the municipal limits of the city of Alexandria to the boundaries of the port being coterminous with the boundaries of Rapides Parish, except that its port authority shall not include any private ports.

Proposed law reduces the membership of the board of commissioners from 8 to 7 as follows:

- (1) Three members appointed by the mayor of the city of Alexandria.
- (2) Two members appointed by the mayor of the city of Pineville each of whom shall be a resident of the city of Pineville or a resident of Ward 11 of Rapides Parish.
- (3) Two members appointed at large by the parish governing authority of Rapides Parish, which one of the members appointed at large shall reside south of the Red River and the other member appointed at large shall reside north of the Red River.

Proposed law provides for term limits and provides for filling board vacancies.

Proposed law requires that four members of the board instead of five members can request in writing to call a special meeting of the board. Further provides that a majority of the members of the board not including vacancies shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed law requires that no action of the board be authorized on any of the following matters unless approved by a majority of the total membership of the board:

- (1) Adoption of bylaws, and other rules and regulations for conduct of port business.
- (2) Hiring or firing of the port administrator or executive director.
- (3) The incurring of funded, general or bonded debt, levy of taxes, and call for any tax or other election.
- (4) Adoption or amendment of the annual budget.
- (5) Sale, lease, or alienation of real property or improvements.

Proposed law provides that if a board member misses 50% of the board's meetings whether these meetings are regular or special meetings, the member shall be disqualified and removed from office. Provides that the vacated position on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law additional powers of the board include:

- (1) Use of authority on all port property within the boundaries of Rapides Parish, except that its port authority shall not include any private ports.
- (2) Acquire by purchase, donation, expropriation, appropriation, or any land in the district needed for railways, wharves, sheds, buildings, canals, channels, and other facilities to be owned and operated by the port.
- (3) Receive by gift, grant, or donation, any sum of money, aid or assistance from the United States, state of La., or any of the political subdivision for carrying out the objects and purposes of the port.
- (4) Power to expropriate property within its territorial limits in the same manner applicable to other port commissions under provisions of R.S. 19:141 et seq.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Amends R.S. 34:335.1, 335.2, 335.3(A) and 335.4(A); Adds R.S. 34:335.7-335.9)