DIGEST

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Brossett HB No. 356

Abstract: Provides relative to the appointment and terms of members of the Public Belt Railroad Commission for the city of New Orleans.

Present law provides that the city of New Orleans shall continue the operation of a public belt railroad by and through a commission to be known as the Public Belt Railroad Commission for the city of New Orleans.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the commission is composed of the mayor of the city and 16 citizen taxpayers. Provides that commission members are selected in the manner and for terms provided in Ordinance 2683, New Council Series of the city of New Orleans, approved Oct. 8, 1904. Present law provides that in case any commercial organization mentioned in the ordinance ceases to exist and if there is no other organization performing similar functions, the members appointed on recommendation of the organization shall be appointed by the Public Belt Railroad Commission.

Proposed law instead provides the commission is composed of the mayor and seven citizens of the city of New Orleans. Provides that three citizens shall be appointed by the mayor of the city and four citizens shall be appointed as determined by ordinance of the governing authority of the city. Provides that appointed members serve four-year staggered terms. Provides for filling vacancies in the manner of the original appointment. Provides that members are eligible for reappointment.

Present law provides that the mayor is president of the commission and has the right to vote at all meetings. Requires that the president pro tempore be chosen by the commission from those members appointed from the commercial organizations as provided in Ordinance 2683.

Proposed law retains the mayor as the president of the commission but requires the members of the commission to select from among themselves a president pro tem and such other officers as they deem appropriate.

Proposed law provides that the terms of the members of the commission in office on the effective date of proposed law shall terminate on the effective date of proposed law. Requires that the members of the commission be appointed and take office and serve initial terms as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall take effect and become operative on the first day of Jan. following an election where a majority of the voters of the city of New Orleans approve an amendment to the home rule charter of the city to change the composition of the commission to provide the identical composition of the commission as contained in proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 33:4530(A))