
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

DIGEST

Proposed law creates the St. Martinville Downtown Development District in the parish of St. Martin. Provides for the districts boundaries.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be governed by a seven member board of commissioners. Provides that the board shall be composed as follows:

- (a) The governing authority of St. Martinville shall appoint three members.
- (b) The mayor of St. Martinville shall appoint one member.
- (c) The state representative for the House of Representatives district which encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.
- (d) The state senator for the Senate district encompassing all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.
- (e) The parish president of St. Martin Parish shall appoint one member.

Proposed law requires the board to elect from its number a chairman, a vice chairman, a treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem appropriate. Provides that board shall adopt bylaws and shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, studies, findings, and determinations.

Proposed law provides that the board shall formulate a redevelopment plan or plans for the district and submit any plan to the governing authority of St. Martinville for review. The board shall formulate a program or programs to implement any redevelopment plan. Such a program shall implement the various plans in such a manner as to aid and encourage private development of the area and to promote and coordinate public development. In formulating such a program, the board may conduct studies and may consult with all departments of the city of St. Martinville and other public or private agencies concerned with matters affecting or affected by the program.

Proposed law provides that the district may employ or contract with engineers, architects, attorneys, underwriters, and other professionals necessary for the financing and implementation of the construction, renovation, maintenance, or operation of facilities described in the redevelopment plan and may contract in accordance with law for the construction, renovation, maintenance, or operation of the facilities.

Proposed law provides that the board shall prepare each year an annual budget in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act.

Proposed law provides that the district may, subject to approval by the governing authority and electors of St. Martinville, levy an ad valorem tax not exceeding ten mills for such number of years as may be provided in the proposition authorizing its levy for the purpose of planning, constructing, acquiring, operating, or maintaining public facilities contemplated by the redevelopment plan and for the operating expenses of the district.

Proposed law provides that the district may, subject to approval by the governing authority and electors of St. Martinville issue general obligation bonds in accordance with the provisions of present law for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, or improving any work of public improvement contemplated by the redevelopment plan. As provided by the Constitution of Louisiana, the bonds shall have pledged thereto the full faith and credit of the district, and the district shall levy and collect taxes on all property subject to taxation in the district sufficient to pay the bonds in principal, interest, and premium, if any, as the same become due and payable.

Proposed law provides that any tax levied shall be in addition to all other taxes which other political subdivisions in St. Martin Parish are now or hereafter may be authorized by law to levy and collect. All services and programs to be provided from the proceeds of the tax shall be in addition to the services and programs which are otherwise provided by other governing authorities.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be authorized to enter into agreements with any person or persons, public or private, providing for contributions or payments towards the cost of financing public facilities in the district. The district is hereby authorized to issue bonds secured wholly or partly by the revenues of such agreements and wholly or partly by other revenues that may be received, from time to time, by the district provided the bonds are authorized and issued in the manner provided by present law.

Proposed law provides that the financial records of the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 33:2740.40)