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

DIGEST

Claitor (SB 199)

Proposed law provides for the creation of the Jefferson Place/Bocage Crime Prevention and Improvement District, hereinafter referred to as the "district", in East Baton Rouge Parish (EBR). The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the district is for promoting and encouraging security in the area included within the district and promoting and encouraging the beautification and overall betterment of the district.

Proposed law provides that the district is governed by a 9-member board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Jefferson Place/Bocage Homeowners Association.
- (2) Four members appointed by the board of directors of the association.
- (3) One appointed by the mayor-president of EBR from a list of nominations submitted by the association.
- (4) One member appointed by the member of the governing authority of EBR whose council district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district from a list of nominations submitted by the association.
- (5) One member appointed by the member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (6) One member appointed by the member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.

Proposed law provides that all members of the board must be residents of the district. They serve 4-year terms except for the president of the association who is ex officio. Two members serve initial terms of one year; two serve initial terms of 2 years; two serve initial terms of 3 years; and two serve initial terms of 4 years, as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board. Board members are eligible for reappointment. The members serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance of the district, not to exceed \$100 per year. The board must adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary or advisable for conducting its business affairs. Rules and regulations of the board relative to the notice and conduct of meetings must conform to applicable law, relative to open

meetings. It must hold regular meetings as must be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special meetings at such times and places within the district as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

Proposed law grants the district, acting through its board, the authority to perform or have performed any function or activity necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the district.

Proposed law provides that the governing authority of EBR Parish is authorized to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district in an amount that is requested by the board. The fee must be a flat fee per "improved parcel" of land not to exceed \$540 per year for each improved parcel. Requires that the fee be approved by the voters prior to being imposed.

Proposed law provides that no fee can be imposed upon any parcel whose owner qualifies for and receives the special assessment level provided by present constitution. The fee is collected at the same time and in the same manner as property taxes. The proceeds of the fee must be used solely and exclusively for the purpose and benefit of the district; however, the EBR sheriff may retain 1% of the amount collected as a collection fee.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law, and the district is subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law authorizes the dissolution of the district if a majority of the area covered by the district becomes included in another district that serves similar purposes but includes additional parcels of property adjacent to the district, if approved by the affirmative vote of not less than five members of the board. If the district is so dissolved, the funds of the district that relate to the portion of the district that is included in the new district, together with any other funds collected by EBR that relate to such portion of the district, must be transferred to the new district to be used for purposes of the new district. The remaining portion of funds, if any, are to be transmitted by the board in equal parts to the state and to EBR Parish and such funds must be used only for law enforcement of the area that was formerly within the district but is not included in the new district. If the district is dissolved, authority for the imposition of the parcel fee ceases.

Proposed law requires the district to indemnify its officers and board members to the fullest extent permitted by present law, as fully as if the district were a nonprofit corporation governed thereby, and as may be provided in the district's bylaws. Protects board members or officers from liability for monetary damages for breach of his duty to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district, except in certain circumstances.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.12)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs
to the original bill.

1. Makes changes to the name and purpose of the district.
2. Makes changes to the boundaries of the district.
3. Changes the maximum amount of the district's parcel fee from \$500 to \$540.