

New law creates the St. Martinville Downtown Development District in the parish of St. Martin. Provides for district's boundaries.

Provides that the district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) Three members appointed by the governing authority of St. Martinville.
- (2) One member appointed by the mayor of St. Martinville.
- (3) One member appointed by the state representative for the House of Representatives district which encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the state senator for the Senate district encompassing all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the president of St. Martin Parish.

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

Requires the board to formulate a redevelopment plan for the district and to submit any plan to the governing authority of the city of St. Martinville for review. Additionally requires the board to formulate a program to implement any redevelopment plan. Requires that the program 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. Authorizes the board to conduct studies and to 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.

Authorizes the district to 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 to contract in accordance with law for the construction, renovation, maintenance, or operation of the facilities.

Requires the board to prepare each year an annual budget in accordance with the La. Local Government Budget Act.

Authorizes the district, subject to approval by the governing authority of the city of St. Martinville and the registered voters of the district, to levy an ad valorem tax not exceeding 10 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.

Authorizes the district, subject to approval by the governing authority of the city of St. Martinville and the registered voters of the district, to issue general obligation bonds in accordance with the provisions of existing law for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, or improving any work of public improvement contemplated by the redevelopment plan. As provided by the state constitution, 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.

Provides that any tax levied shall be in addition to all other taxes which other political subdivisions in St. Martin Parish may be authorized by law to levy and collect. Provides that 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.

Authorizes the district to enter into agreements with any person, public or private, providing for contributions or payments towards the cost of financing public facilities in the district. Additionally authorizes the district to issue bonds secured wholly or partly by the revenues of the 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 existing 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)