
DIGEST

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HB No. 253

Abstract: Creates the Mayfair Park/Park East/Heights Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish. Provides for a board of commissioners and for the imposition and use of a parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the Mayfair Park/Park East/Heights Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security of district residents. Provides for district boundaries and that the district shall be governed by a board of seven commissioners, all of whom shall own immovable property in the district, composed as follows:

- (1) The presidents of the Mayfair Park, Mayfair Park East, and Mayfair Heights homeowners associations shall serve as ex officio members.
- (2) The member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.
- (3) The member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.
- (4) The mayor-president shall appoint one member.
- (5) The member of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.

Proposed law provides that the presidents of the homeowners associations shall serve during their respective terms of office as president and those appointed to the board shall serve terms concurrent with those of their respective appointing authority. Provides that vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and that members shall serve without compensation.

Proposed law authorizes the board to select from its members a president and other officers whose duties shall be fixed by the board's bylaws. Provides that the district shall have these powers and duties:

- (1) To sue and be sued.

- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.
- (3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to proposed law and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by proposed law.
- (4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public, for the provision of security patrols.
- (5) To purchase items and supplies instrumental to achieving the district's purpose.
- (6) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary for achieving the district's purpose.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district the amount of which shall be as requested by duly adopted board resolution. Provides that the fee shall be a flat fee per parcel of improved land not to exceed \$144 per year. Provides that the fee is subject to voter approval. Provides that no other election shall be required except as provided by proposed law. Provides that the fee shall expire five years after its initial levy, but may be renewed, and that if renewed, the term of the imposition of the fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing renewal, not to exceed five years.

Proposed law requires that the fee be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes are collected. Provides that any fee shall be added to the parish tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as ad valorem taxes. Proposed law requires sheriff to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection.

Proposed law requires the board of commissioners to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law provides that it is the purpose and intent of proposed law that the additional law enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized by proposed law shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services provided in the district by the city and parish. Proposed law provides that if the district ceases to exist, district funds shall be transmitted to the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish and requires that such funds be used for law enforcement purposes in the area included within the district.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.13)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill.

1. Relative to the collection of the parcel fee, requires that all fees, rather than unpaid fees, be added to the tax rolls of the parish. Requires that the collection of the fee be enforced in the same manner and subject to the same penalties as all ad valorem taxes, rather than as unpaid ad valorem taxes.
2. Removes proposed law that provides that the district's budget and all amendments shall be subject to the approval of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish.