

Regular Session, 2012

ACT No. 256

HOUSE BILL NO. 414

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW AND SENATORS BROOME AND DORSEY-COLOMB

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:4574(B)(6) and (F)(1)(a) and (b)(v), 4574.1.1(A)(6) and (L),
3 and 4574.16(introductory paragraph) and to repeal R.S. 33:4574.1.1(H), relative to
4 East Baton Rouge Parish; to provide relative to the Baton Rouge Area Convention
5 and Visitors Bureau; to change the name of the bureau; to provide for legislative
6 intent; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to change the name of the bureau
7 in other provisions of law; and to provide for related matters.

8 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
9 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
10 Louisiana.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 33:4574(B)(6) and (F)(1)(a) and (b)(v), 4574.1.1(A)(6) and (L), and
13 4574.16(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

14 §4574. Tourist commissions; creation; purpose; directors; powers

15 * * *

16 B. Pursuant to Article VI, Sections 19 and 30 of the Constitution of
17 Louisiana, the following commissions and bureaus, hereafter collectively referred
18 to in this Chapter as "tourist commissions" or "commissions", are hereby specifically
19 created as special districts or commissions. Each such commission shall be a body
20 politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana, composed
21 of the following territory:

22 * * *

(6) ~~Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge
composed of all the territory in East Baton Rouge Parish.

* * *

F.(1)(a) Unless provided otherwise in any local, special, or general law for a particular commission, the commission shall be governed by a board of seven directors, ~~hereinafter~~ hereafter also referred to as the governing authority of the commission in this Chapter, to be appointed by the governing authority or authorities of the parish or parishes creating the commission or, in the case of the commissions provided for in Subsection B of this Section, ~~those~~ the parish or parishes which are within the territory of the commission. However, the St. Mary Parish Tourist Commission, the Houma Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission shall be governed by a board of nine directors; ~~the Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge shall be governed by a board of ten directors; and the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitor's Bureau of Ouachita Parish shall be governed by a board of eleven directors appointed by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury.

(b)

* * *

(v) The term of each member of the board of commissioners of ~~the Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge shall expire on December thirty-first of the respective year. ~~The term of each member of the board of commissioners of the Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau in office on June 26, 2001, shall be extended until December thirty-first of the year the term would otherwise expire.~~

* * *

§4574.1.1. Occupancy taxes levied by the commissions

A. For the purposes set forth in Paragraph (F)(3) of this Section, a commission created pursuant to R.S. 33:4574(B) is authorized to levy and collect a tax upon the occupancy of hotel rooms, motel rooms, and overnight camping

facilities within the jurisdiction of the commission. Such tax shall not exceed the following percentages of the rent or fee charged for such occupancy:

* * *

(6) ~~Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge, four percent subject to the provisions of Subsection GL of this Section. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the aggregate rate of occupancy taxes levied by all commissions in East Baton Rouge Parish shall not exceed the rate authorized by this ~~Subparagraph~~ Paragraph.

* * *

L. ~~The Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge shall distribute and use the proceeds derived from one percent of the tax levied pursuant to this Section for capital improvements and expansion of the ~~Riverside Centroplex Arena and Exhibition Center~~ Baton Rouge Rivercenter and the proceeds derived from the remaining three percent of the tax for such purposes as determined by ~~the bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge. If the governing authority of the city-parish of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish abandons the planned capital improvements and expansion of the ~~Riverside Centroplex Arena and Exhibition Center~~ Baton Rouge Rivercenter, the tax rate shall not exceed three percent. At such time as all costs for the capital improvements and expansion of the ~~Riverside Centroplex Arena and Exhibition Center~~ Baton Rouge Rivercenter are paid in full, the tax rate shall not exceed three percent.

* * *

§4574.16. ~~Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge; additional powers

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, ~~the Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau~~ Visit Baton Rouge shall have all powers necessary or convenient to effectuate its purposes, including but not limited to the following rights and powers:

* * *

1 Section 2. R.S. 33:4574.1.1(H) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

2 Section 3. The Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau shall be known
3 hereafter as Visit Baton Rouge and shall continue in existence and shall continue to be
4 composed and continue to exercise powers and duties as provided by law. The change of
5 name shall not affect any unfinished business of the bureau, nor shall it affect the status of
6 any law, document, or legal proceeding which refers to the bureau, nor shall it affect terms
7 of members of the governing board. In addition, the amendment and reenactment of R.S.
8 33:4574(F)(1)(a) and (b)(v) is only intended to change the name of the bureau and shall not
9 affect the terms of the governing board members.

10 Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
11 change "Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau" to "Visit Baton Rouge" in the
12 following provisions: R.S. 33:4574(F)(1)(b)(iv) and 9038.61(H) and R.S. 42:1123(33).

13 Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
14 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
15 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
16 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
17 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____