

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
House Bill No. 232 By Representative Brown**

June 5, 2013

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 232 by Representative Brown, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments proposed by Senator Gallot and adopted by the Senate on May 23, 2013, be rejected.
2. The following amendment to the engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 18, after "(11)" insert "(a)"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 18 delete "eight" and insert "two"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, between lines 18 and 19 insert the following:

"(b) In addition to the taxes authorized by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the commission may levy an additional tax, not to exceed six percent, if the levy of the additional tax is approved by a majority of the electors of Grant Parish who vote on a proposition authorizing the levy of the tax. The tourist commission may call an election for the purpose of submitting such a proposition to the voters."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Girod Jackson III

Senator Francis C. Thompson

Representative Terry Brown

Senator Richard "Rick" Gallot, Jr.

Representative Thomas P. Willmott

Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

House Bill No. 232 by Representative Brown

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

TOURISM/COMMISSION: Increases the maximum hotel occupancy tax that the Grant Parish Tourist Commission is authorized to levy subject to voter approval

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Required all tourist commissions created pursuant to present law to receive voter approval prior to the levying of a hotel occupancy tax.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Make the authority for the Grant Parish Tourist Commission to levy an additional 6% tax upon the occupancy of hotel rooms and motel rooms in Grant Parish subject to approval of the voters in Grant Parish.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law creates tourist commissions, and similar entities with various names, as special taxing districts in many of the state's parishes for the purpose of attracting conventions and tourists to their respective jurisdictions. Present law authorizes such commissions to levy hotel occupancy taxes to fund such activities and sets the maximum rate for each commission.

Present law allows the Grant Parish Tourist Commission to levy a two percent hotel occupancy tax on the hotels and motels in Grant Parish.

Proposed law allows the Commission to levy an additional tax up to 6% upon the occupancy of hotels and motels in the Grant Parish. Proposed law makes the additional six percent tax subject to voter approval.