
DIGEST

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Ponti

HB No. 289

Abstract: Creates the Tara Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and overall betterment of the district. Provides for a board of commissioners and for the imposition and use of a parcel fee.

Proposed law creates the Tara Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention by providing increased security for the district residents and the overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district shall be governed by a board of commissioners consisting of the following members:

- (1) Four members appointed by the board of directors of the Tara Civic Association, Inc. or its successor.
- (2) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the parish assessor of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law provides that the district has the following 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 from an authorized parcel fee and in accordance with an adopted budget.
- (4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.
- (5) To provide or enhance security patrols in the district, to provide for improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security of the district, to provide for the beautification of and improvement to the district, and to provide generally for the overall betterment of

the district.

- (6) To enter into contracts and agreements with one or more other districts for the joint security, improvement, or betterment of all participating districts.
- (7) To provide for such services and make such expenditures as the board deems proper to carry out the purposes of the district.
- (8) To acquire or lease items and supplies which the board deems proper to carry out the purposes of the district.
- (9) To procure and maintain liability insurance against any personal or legal liability of a board member that may be asserted or incurred based upon service as a member of the board or that may arise as a result of actions taken within the scope and discharge of duties as a member of the board.
- (10) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the district or for the overall betterment of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of the district, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district, which amount shall be as provided by a duly adopted board resolution. Provides that the initial fee shall not exceed \$100 per parcel per year and that the initial fee can be raised up to 10% each year. Provides that the maximum parcel fee is \$200 per parcel per year. Defines a parcel as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a condominium parcel as defined in present law (R.S. 9:1121.103).

Proposed law provides that the fee shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the city tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

Proposed law requires that the fee proceeds be used solely and exclusively for the district's purpose and benefit. Authorizes the tax collector to retain a collection fee, not to exceed 1%, and requires the tax collector to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection.

Proposed law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the La. 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 publicly funded law enforcement agencies.

Proposed law provides that if the district ceases to exist, all district property shall be transmitted to the parish of East Baton Rouge and used to promote, encourage, and enhance the security,

beautification, and overall betterment of the area included in the district.

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

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.22)