
DIGEST

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HB 1056 Original

2016 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Authorizes the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority Economic Growth and Development District to levy taxes and implement tax increment financing and to create subdistricts.

Present law creates and provides for the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority Economic Growth and Development District as a political subdivision and provides for its boundaries. Provides that the district's purpose is to provide for cooperative economic and community development among the district, the city, the state, and the owners of property in the district, to enhance the development of and improvement to property within the district, and to promote economic growth, safety, and development. Provides for the district's governance.

Present law provides for the district's powers and duties, including the following:

- (1) Sue and be sued.
- (2) Adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal.
- (3) Acquire property by gift, grant, or purchase and to hold and use any franchise or property.
- (4) Enter into contracts for the purchase, lease, acquisition, construction, and improvement of works and facilities.
- (5) Mortgage its properties and enter into leases and other agreements. Specifically exempts any such lease from present law on leasing public property.
- (6) Require and issue licenses with respect to its properties and facilities.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the district to exercise any and all of the powers granted to an economic development district as if the district were an economic development district established pursuant to present law, excluding, however, the powers of tax increment financing and the power to levy taxes within the district.

Proposed law instead grants the district all of the powers of an economic development district established pursuant present law, including the powers of tax increment financing and the power to

levy taxes. Proposed law additionally provides that the taxing authority granted to the district pursuant to proposed law cannot limit any taxing authority granted to the city of New Orleans pursuant to the state constitution (Art. VI, Sec. 29(B)).

Proposed law authorizes the district to create subdistricts. Requires the district to publish notice of its intent to create a subdistrict in the official journal of the district. Requires the district's board, at least 10 days after publication, to conduct a public hearing on the question of creating the subdistrict. Provides that each subdistrict constitutes a political subdivision of the state and shall be governed by the district's board. Grants each subdistrict the same powers granted to the district.

Present law authorizes the district to issue bonds or other evidence of indebtedness to provide funds to achieve its purposes, including payment of costs of a project. Provides with respect to such debt issuance and procedures therefor. Authorizes establishment of funds or reserves with respect to the financing and operation of any project funded with bond proceeds. Provides procedures for contesting legality of debt issuance. Provides for exemption from state and local taxes for obligations issued by the district and authorizes investment in such obligations by public bodies and specified financial institutions, insurance related entities, specified fiduciaries, and retirement systems or pension funds.

Proposed law makes present law applicable to subdistricts created by the district.

Effective July 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 33:130.865(9) and 130.866; Adds R.S. 33:130.865(10))