

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 124

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOURRIAQUE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 41:729, relative to sixteenth section lands; to provide for the sale or exchange  
3 of certain state property in Cameron Parish; to provide for the authority of the  
4 Cameron Parish School Board; to provide for appraisal; to provide for notice and  
5 public hearings; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 41:729 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §729. Cameron Parish School Board; sale or exchange of sixteenth section lands

9 A. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if the Cameron Parish  
10 School Board, on behalf of the state of Louisiana, determines that any sixteenth  
11 section lands located within Cameron Parish are no longer needed for school  
12 purposes and that the best interest of the Cameron Parish school system would be  
13 served by the sale or exchange of such lands, the school board may authorize a sale  
14 or exchange on behalf of the state in accordance with the procedures set forth in this  
15 Section.

16 B. The school board shall obtain an appraisal of the lands being considered  
17 for sale or exchange from a certified, licensed appraiser and such appraisal shall be  
18 available for public inspection.

19 C. The school board shall hold a public hearing to receive public comment  
20 concerning the sale or exchange of the sixteenth section lands. The school board  
21 shall provide notice of the public hearing and notice of its intent to consider the sale  
22 or exchange of sixteenth section lands by advertisement in the official journal of the

1           parish on at least three separate days at least thirty days prior to the date of the  
 2           hearing. The notice shall include a brief description of the sixteenth section lands  
 3           to be sold or exchanged, as well as any lands being considered in exchange for such  
 4           sixteenth section lands. The appraisal required by Subsection B of this Section shall  
 5           be made available for public inspection at the hearing.

6           D. After the hearing and with due consideration of any public comments, if  
 7           the board determines that the sixteenth section lands are not needed for school  
 8           purposes and that a sale or exchange is in the best interest of the school system, the  
 9           school board may vote to authorize a sale or exchange.

10           E. Upon authorization of the school board for the sale of sixteenth section  
 11           lands, the president of the school board may proceed with a sale on behalf of the  
 12           state in accordance with the procedures provided in R.S. 41:892. Upon authorization  
 13           of the school board for an exchange of sixteenth section lands, the president of the  
 14           school board may proceed on behalf of the state with an exchange of such lands for  
 15           other lands in Cameron Parish of equal or greater value.

16           F. The authority conferred by this Section shall be in addition to the  
 17           authority conferred by any other law. This Section shall be construed liberally for  
 18           the accomplishment of its purpose, which is to provide a complete and additional  
 19           method for the sale or exchange of unused sixteenth section lands by the Cameron  
 20           Parish School Board.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_